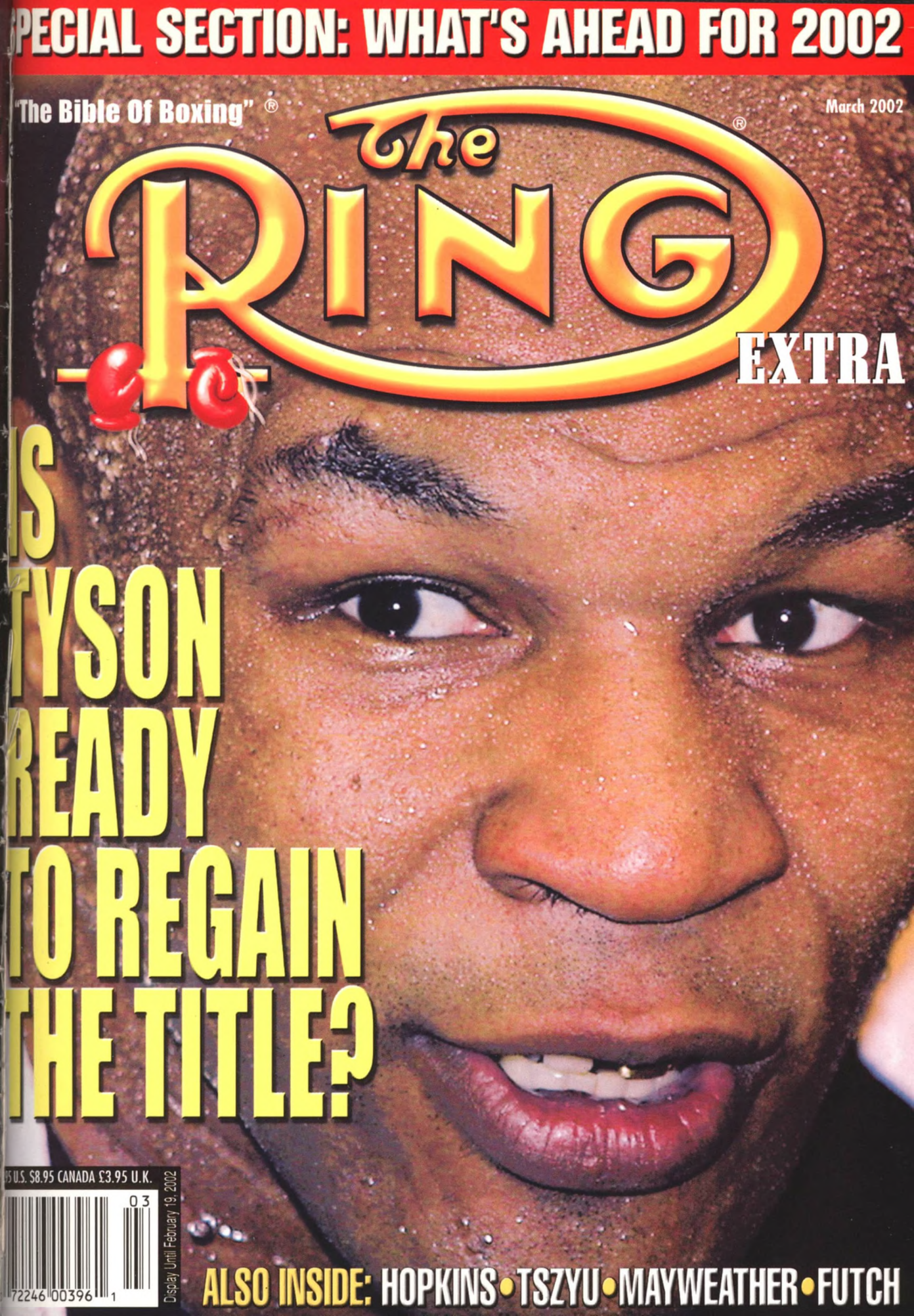
SPECIAL SECTION: WHAT'S AHEAD FOR 2002

"The Bible Of Boxing" ®

March 2002

The RING®

EXTRA



IS TYSON READY TO REGAIN THE TITLE?

ALSO INSIDE: HOPKINS • TSZYU • MAYWEATHER • FUTCH

$5 U.S. $8.95 CANADA £3.95 U.K.

03

72246 00396 1

Display Until February 19, 2002

The HEART & SOUL *of* BOXING

HBO®

www.hbo.com/boxing ©1999 Home Box Office, a Division of Time Warner Entertainment Company, L.P. All rights reserved. ® Service mark of Time Warner Entertainment Company, L.P.

Your hand will feel the difference.

Your fingers will feel the difference.

Your opponent, he'll feel the difference too.

Introducing the new Everlast Professional Championship Glove.

Is it a boxer's glove? Or is it a puncher's glove? Actually it's both. You see, we've redesigned our glove with the finest leather to conform perfectly with your hand. They not only protect you, but make sure you deliver the effectiveness of your punches. Even better, they're evenly padded so you get the best of both worlds. And your opponent, well, he'll get something too.

BOXING EQUIPMENT
EVERLAST
EST. 1910
BRONX, NEW YORK

To order a catalog, call 1-800-221-8777 or visit everlast.com

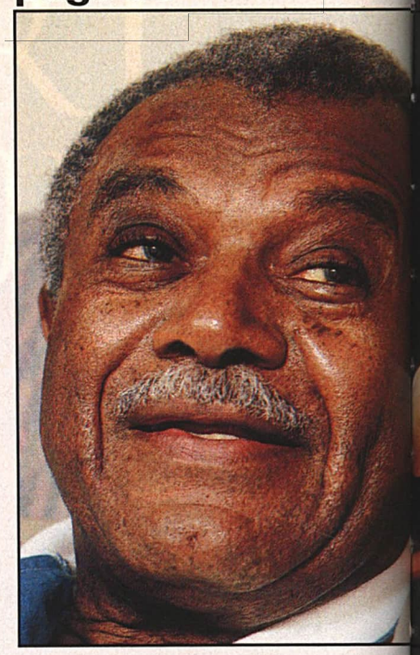
Choice of Champions®

The RING EXTRA

CONTENTS

March 2002

Cover: *Mike Tyson by Tom Casino/Showtime*
Cover Design: *Joseph Kalman*



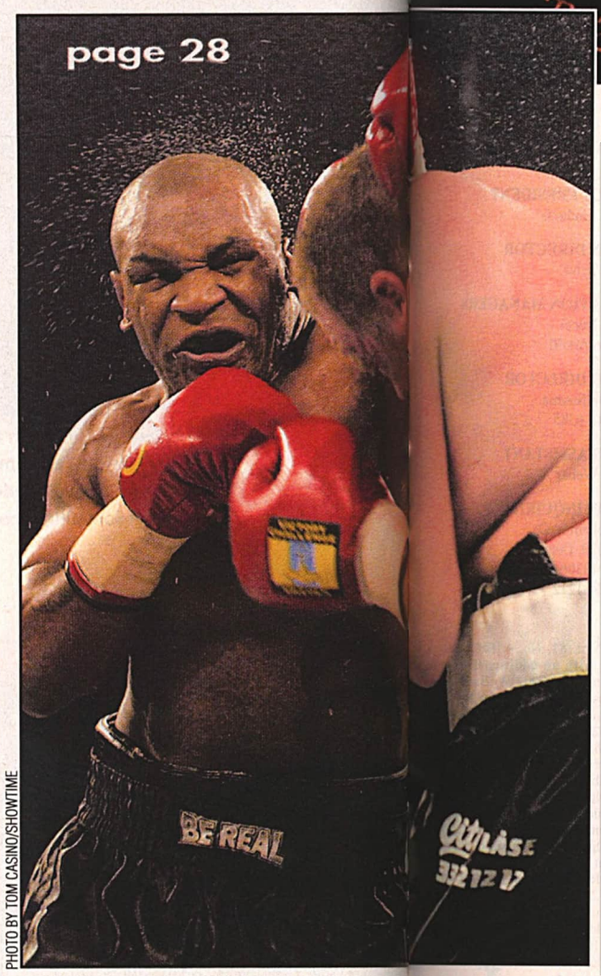


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

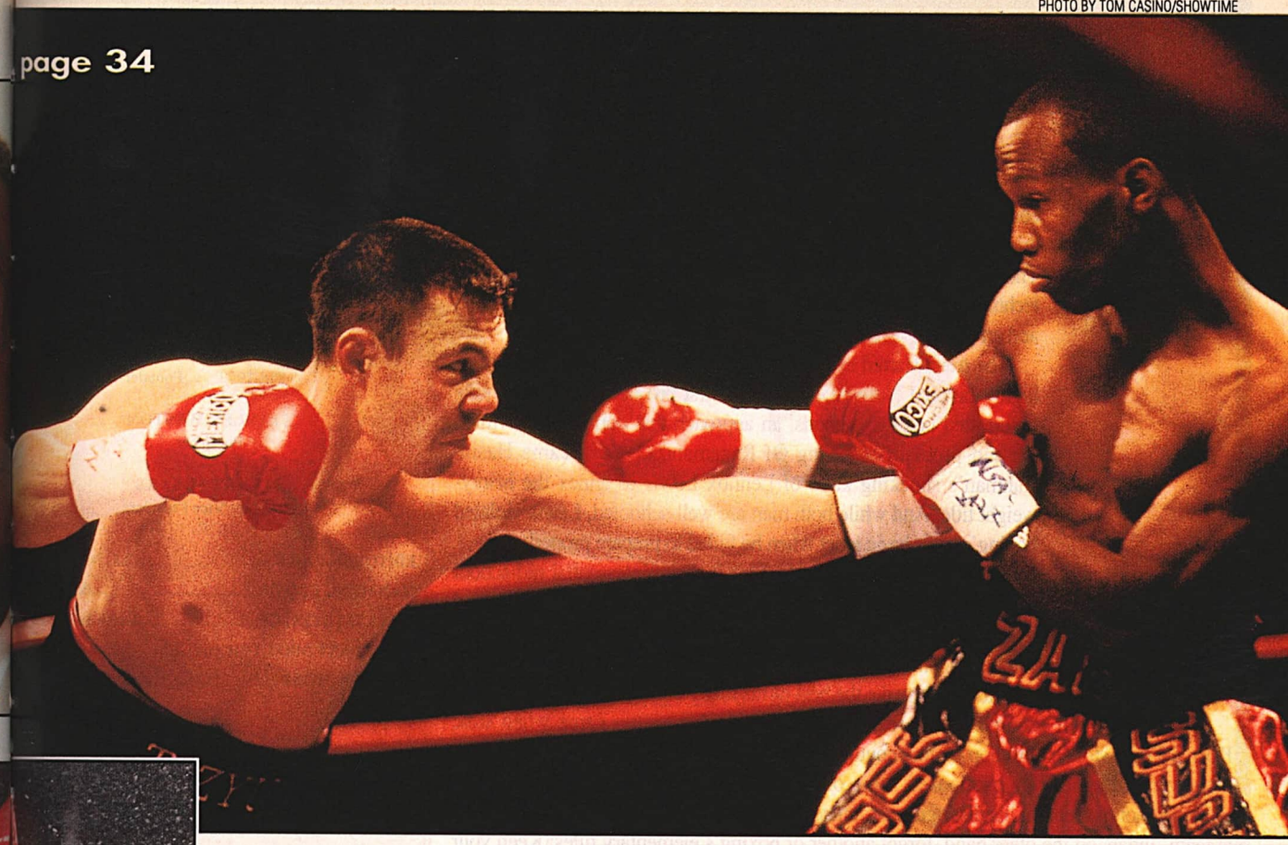


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

FEATURES

28 **CAN TYSON DO TO A CHAMP WHAT HE DID TO NIELSEN?**
We May Find Out Soon!
By Nigel Collins

34 **AFTER FOUR YEARS OF REBUILDING … KOSTYA ZOOMS TO THE TOP!**
Tszyu Knocks Out Zab Judah To Unify Junior Welter Title
By Kevin Iole

40 **"PRETTY BOY" FLOYD MAYWEATHER CAN ADD SOME POUNDS …**
But Can He Take The Pounding?
By David Mayo

46 **NOW BERNARD HOPKINS CALLS THE SHOTS!**
Roy, Oscar, Shane, & Tito Will Just Have To Get In Line
By Johnnie Whitehead

51 **THE RING PREDICTS: WHAT'S AHEAD FOR 2002**
A Special 15-Page Section Speculating On The New Year
Compiled by Eric Raskin and William Dettloff

66 **EDDIE FUTCH, 1911-2001**
A Tribute To "The Wisest Man In Boxing"
By Pete Ehrmann

74 **WHO'S FIT TO FIGHT?**
Boxing Struggles To Protect Fighters From Themselves
By David Mayo

Ringside Reports And Analyses

82 FIGHTER OF THE MONTH & RINGSIDE REPORTS

Ratings

13 RATINGS ANALYSIS

14 THE RING'S INTERNATIONAL RATINGS

94 WBA, WBC, & IBF RATINGS

DEPARTMENTS

6 RINGSIDE, *by Nigel Collins*

8 ROUND ONE

16 NEW FACES: Junior Middleweight Kassim Ouma, *by Joe Santoliquito*

18 RYAN OUT LOUD, *by Jeff Ryan*

20 DIGGING DEEP, *by Ivan Goldman*

22 BEING THERE: Madison Square Garden, *by Robert Mladinich*

24 CAMERA CLICKS

80 WORLDWIDE FIGHT RESULTS

96 THE RING CLASSIC: JEFF CHANDLER: Boxing's Biggest Little Man, *by Nigel Collins*

102 THE A, B, C, AND DEAS OF BOXING, *by Tommy Deas*

104 COME OUT WRITING

106 LOOKING AHEAD, *by Eric Raskin*

THE BIBLE OF BOXING

RINGSIDE

Due to the surprising outcome of so many major bouts, 2001 could easily be called "The Year Of The Upset." But when you think about it, it could just as readily be labeled "The Return Of The Old School," because in each of the upsets, traditional boxing techniques and old-school attitudes triumphed over superficial flash and arrogance.

The trend started in April when Marco Antonio Barrera handed highly favored Naseem Hamed his first pro defeat by employing time-tested boxing methods, an approach that completely stymied the self-proclaimed "King Of Razzmatazz." Next came Hasim Rahman's shocking kayo of Lennox Lewis to annex the heavyweight title. And while both men are well-schooled, Lewis violated boxing's most basic tenet when he failed to prepare properly.

Undisputed middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins is the quintessential old-school fighter, a throwback to the days when pugilists learned their trade from top to bottom and inside out. In some ways, Felix Trinidad is also old-school. But over the years "Tito" became too dependent on his punching power and turned into a one-dimensional fighter, which allowed "The Executioner" to make the best of his multi-faceted craftsmanship.

The most recent example of the reemergence of orthodox values came when stoic Kostya Tszyu stopped hip-hop motor-mouth Zab Judah. Those who considered Tszyu just a slugger had apparently overlooked some of the subtle moves that have made him so effective, not to mention his distinguished amateur career as a member of Russia's national team. Judah, on the other hand, forgot another of boxing's elementary rules: Keep your hands up.

At its best, boxing is an art form. But like artists who work in other mediums, all great fighters have to learn the fundamentals. Picasso could not have painted the abstract masterpiece *Guernica* without first becoming a superb draftsman. Even a maverick like Muhammad Ali spent countless hours in the gym during his formative years, studying the moves of traditional masters such as Willie Pastrano and Luis Rodriguez.

Too many of today's fighters are looking to cut corners and take the easy route to fame and fortune. They think of boxing as a means to an end, not a profession. For others, success leads to complacency. But in the long run, the ones left standing are usually those who build their games on solid foundations, foundations that they continue to reinforce throughout their careers. Because when the moment of truth comes, as it did for so many in 2001, the old-school fighters generally hand out old-school ass whuppings.

***

A couple of additional thoughts on the Tszyu-Judah fight: First, Judah's juvenile behavior following his TKO defeat was inexcusable. The Nevada State Athletic Commission had yet to mete out his punishment when this issue went to press, but anything less than a hefty fine and a lengthy suspension would send the wrong message to all the punks and thugs who think they are above the rules. It was bad enough when he pushed his glove into referee Jay Nady's throat, but when Judah threw the stool, he not only shamed himself, he dishonored the sport that supports him and his family.

I have no momentous criticism of the way Nady handled the end of the fight, but I do think it would have been better if he had completed the count, because the referee doesn't have to start counting all over again when a fighter goes down more than once from a punch. Counting to 10 is another of boxing's tried and true traditions that is gradually being abandoned in favor of the ref's subjective judgment. Maybe it's time to bring back old-school referees as well.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

Volume 81, No. 4 March 2002

The RING

THE RING
"The Bible Of Boxing"

NATHANIEL S. FLEISCHER
1888-1972 Founder

STANLEY WESTON
Publisher

STUART M. SAKS
Assistant Vice President

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ..... Nigel Collins
MANAGING EDITOR ..... Eric Raskin
ASSOCIATE EDITOR ..... Joseph Santoliquito
SENIOR ART DIRECTOR ..... Walt Schmidt
ART DIRECTORS ..... Joseph Kalman
Greg Stevens
Natalie Burke
PRODUCTION MANAGER ..... Bethany Lawler
PRE-PRESS DIRECTOR ..... Cliff Campo
ASSISTANT EDITORS ..... Dave Lenker
Brandi Mankiewicz
SENIOR WRITER ..... William Dettloff

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
David Tyler

NATIONAL CIRCULATION MANAGERS
Robert Nucci
Rose Ann Adolfi

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Vincent Bellissima
(215) 643-6385

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
Dianne Weber

SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43306-8121
(815) 734-1212

THE RING (ISSN: 0035-5410), Vol. 81, No. 4 (Extra, March 2002), is published monthly, with an additional issue in December, by London Publishing Co., 7002 W. Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Periodicals postage paid at Ambler, PA 19002 and additional post offices. Postmaster: Send change of address notices to: THE RING, P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8121. Single copy price $5.95 ($8.95 in Canada, £3.95 in U.K.). Subscription price $59.64 in the U.S., $69.24 in Canada and remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage.

The entire contents of this magazine are copyright ©2001 London Publishing Co. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved.

FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES: (215) 643-6385. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable News Inc., 641 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010, U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England.
Printed in U.S.A.

We give new meaning to the term boxing match.

Introducing the Everlast Training Boxing Combinations.

Not since the creation of the one-two-punch, has boxing seen a combination like this. Introducing Everlast Training Boxing Combinations. From gloves to headgear and speed bags to shorts, everything's coordinated to give you a little extra razzle-dazzle. With so many choices, the only hard part is picking the color that matches your attitude.

BOXING EQUIPMENT
EVERLAST
EST. 1910
BRONX, NEW YORK

To order a catalog, call 1-800-221-8777 or visit everlast.com

Choice of Champions®

ROUND ONE

TRINIDAD'S BUM WRAP

In the immediate aftermath of Bernard Hopkins' win over Felix Trinidad, there was so much to say about Hopkins' brilliance that night that one of the more interesting developments at Madison Square Garden was temporarily overlooked by most of the media. But a month after the fight, Maxboxing.com published a piece by Steve Kim investigating the story behind Trinidad having to twice re-wrap his left hand for the Hopkins fight, and the article's assertions sparked intense debate among the online boxing community.

Are those hands being wrapped properly?

According to James Fisher, a member of the Hopkins camp, when he arrived in Trinidad's dressing room before the fight, "Tito" already had his left hand wrapped. After much arguing, the wraps were cut off so that Fisher and another Hopkins representative, Naziim Richardson, could witness the wrapping. But when the left hand was re-wrapped, Felix Trinidad Sr. allegedly did so improperly, layering the knuckle with gauze and tape—only gauze is allowed over the knuckle area—and the Hopkins camp protested until it was done properly.

Kim's story went on to suggest that Trinidad may have gotten away with using illegal hand wraps in previous fights—perhaps even throughout his entire career. Recent opponents William Joppy, Fernando Vargas, and David Reid all said that they now believed Trinidad's gloves were loaded when they fought him, but that might just be a case of defeated fighters searching for excuses.

Responding to the allegations in late-October, Trinidad Sr. said that he has always wrapped his son's hands—and the hands of his other fighters—in the same way, but insisted he does not use an excess amount of tape, at least according to Puerto Rican rules.

"The idea is to protect the hand of the boxer," said Don Felix. "This does not cause the fighter to get more knockouts. In fact, it has an opposite effect."

—Eric Raskin

MUCH ADO ABOUT MUNDINE

We all say stupid things from time to time; it's part of being human. So it should have come as no huge shock when super middleweight Anthony Mundine made some indiscreet remarks about the September 11 terrorist attack on the United States. Exactly what Mundine said has been blurred by the brouhaha that followed and the fighter's subsequent apology, but reports that the Australian had said that the U.S. had brought the attacks on itself prompted the Mexico-based WBC to drop Mundine from its ratings.

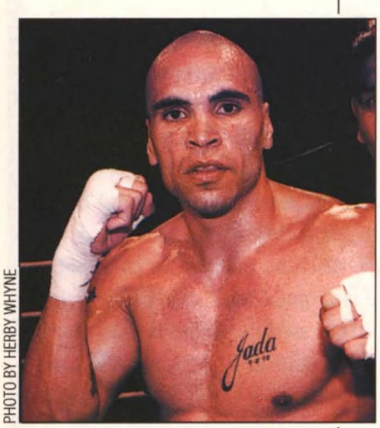


PHOTO BY HERBY WHYNE

Mundine's comments triggered controversy

"The WBC will not tolerate the utilization of a position in boxing to make such absurd and denigrating public statements," said a WBC press release. The statement went on to explain that the organization has the right to suspend, expel, impose a fine, or otherwise penalize any boxer who "acts in any manner which tends to bring disrepute upon the WBC, its officers, or the sport of boxing."

Thankfully, clearer heads prevailed at the IBF when President Marian W. Muhammad refused to follow the WBC's lead. Instead, Muhammad issued a statement condemning Mundine's comments, but defending his right to free speech.

"The job of the IBF is to rank boxers according to their prowess in the ring … We simply will not allow politics or religious statements, no matter how outrageous, to have a bearing on a boxer's ranking and on his right to fight for a world title," she wrote.

Muhammad, who had been president of the New Jersey-based organization for less than a month prior to the Mundine mess, showed guts and common sense making the correct call in a difficult, emotion-charged situation.

—Nigel Collins

HOOKING KIDS ON BOOKS

HBO recently aired the critically acclaimed six-episode series *The Corner*, the sobering yet brilliant production by actor/director Charles S. Dutton about one of the worst drug corners in Baltimore, at Fulton Avenue and West Fayette Street, and the lives of the addicts, pushers, and police officers that revolve around it. Based on the non-fiction book of the same name that was co-written by a Baltimore police officer and a *Baltimore Sun* reporter, those fortunate enough to have watched it were witness to the frustration, despair, and violence the people of the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood had to deal with on a daily basis.

PHOTOS BY MIKE GREENHILL

William "T.C." Chavis coaches eight-year-old Dante Thomas (above) at the UMAR program in Sandtown (below)

But hope springs eternal, even in the most unlikely of places. Such is the case with the UMAR Boxing Club, a three-year success story begun by Marvin McDowell at North Fulton Avenue and Presstman Street, in the same area dramatized by Dutton. A barber by day, McDowell is also a former pro welterweight whose most well-known opponent was Shawn O'Sullivan, to whom McDowell lost on a disputed stoppage in 1985.

"UMAR is Islamic for 'life.' We wanted to bring life back to the community," explained McDowell.

McDowell canvassed the city to raise funds, and as a non-profit organization, has also received grants from the federal government. The club is open from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. six days a week. The participation level has grown to 250 kids since 1998. But the thing that separates UMAR from other gyms and boxing programs is its combination of boxing and education.

"Our motto is 'no hooks before books,'" said McDowell. Indeed, the kids, currently ranging in age from eight to 18, have to first do their studies in the first floor classroom before they can go upstairs to the gym. And they have to keep their grades at a certain level in order to be allowed to continue boxing. The Social Security Administration donated computers to the club, and there are Baltimore teachers who come in to tutor the youths when necessary. Law books and encyclopedias were donated to the UMAR library as well.

The UMAR kids are winners in the ring and out.

"We have had 10 Golden Glove champions and 10 Silver Glove champions," boasted McDowell. "We also have had two National Police Athletic League champions, two regional Junior Olympic champions, and 10 of our kids have been ranked in the top 10 nationally in their weight classes by USA Boxing."

McDowell has a dedicated staff of trainers that includes former fighters Lou Butler, Kenny Ellis, Maxwell Taylor, and William "T.C." Chavis, plus Education Director Tyrone Sol.

McDowell would like to spread the UMAR philosophy around the country, so other cities can follow the Baltimore example with similar programs. One of the ways he is trying to do this is by starting an Academic Olympic Boxing History Trivia Challenge, sponsored by the South Atlantic Boxing Association (for which McDowell is the first African-American vice president) and USA Boxing, in conjunction with UMAR.

"We want kids to learn the history of boxing in their area, so they can better appreciate the legacy they are continuing," said McDowell.

While life isn't easy on the streets of West Baltimore, the staff of the UMAR Boxing Club can be proud of what they've accomplished so far, as anyone who has spent time watching the UMAR kids can attest. McDowell and his staff are a shining example of what love, guidance, and perseverance can do for a community.

—Mike Greenhill

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
10-12-01	Antonio Diaz KO 9 Orlando Hollis	ESPN2	w	B-	D+	C+
Diaz continues trek back by overpowering game but outclassed Hollis						
10-12-01	**Winky Wright W 12 Robert Frazier**	**ESPN2**	**IBF jm**	**A-**	**C**	**C**
It took Wright a long time to get the title; can you blame him for wanting to keep it a while?						
10-13-01	Francisco Bojado KO 2 Eleazar Contreras	Show	jw	C+	C-	C+
Contreras landed a punch or two before bodyshot deflated him; we're still looking for a flaw in "Panchito"						
10-13-01	Jeff Lacy KO 3 Scorpion Bawa	Show	sm	C	D+	C+
Highlight film left hook crumples Bawa; Lacy remind anyone else of Andrew Maynard?						
10-13-01	Joe Calzaghe KO 4 Will McIntyre	Show	sm	A-	D-	C-
We'd sure like it if Calzaghe would fight some top guys already						
10-13-01	Mike Tyson KO 7 Brian Nielsen	Show	h	A	D	C
This was after six weeks of training; imagine how Nielsen looks when he's just lying around the house						
10-14-01	**Eidy Moya KO 11 Adan Vargas**	**FOXSN**	**WBA b**	**A**	**B+**	**A-**
Moya ends slugfest with right hand that clinches title; this was a war from beginning to end						
10-19-01	Juan Manuel Marquez KO 1 Johnny Walker	ESPN2	f	B	D	B-
Hey, if we were Naseem Hamed, we'd have ducked Marquez too						
10-26-01	Bronco McKart W 12 Alex Bunema	ESPN2	jm	B+	A	C+
McKart wins by wide scores what should have been a squeaker; judge Robert Byrd should be ashamed						
10-27-01	Eamonn Magee W 12 Matthews Zulu	Show	jw	C-	C-	C-
Magee not the most talented guy on the block, but Zulu not strong enough to take advantage						
10-27-01	Ricky Hatton KO 2 Freddie Pendleton	Show	jw	C+	D+	C+
Hatton joins long list of guys to blow out Pendleton, but don't hold that against him; the kid can whack						
10-28-01	Carlos Gerena W 10 Cesar Bazan	Uni	l	B-	B+	B+
Gerena's early lead helps him survive knockdown, late rush by Bazan; excellent fight						
11-2-01	Joe Mesi KO 1 Derrick Banks	ESPN2	h	C-	D+	C-
If Mesi's guys really want him to get rounds, as they say, why don't put him in with a guy who's breathing?						
11-2-01	Lou Savarese W 12 David Bostice	ESPN2	h	C+	C+	C
Savarese too big and strong for Bostice, who still landed enough uppercuts to keep it fairly interesting						
11-3-01	Francisco Bojado KO 1 Mauro Lucero	Show	jw	C+	B-	D-
Lucero's flop much more unconvincing here than it was against Antonio Diaz a couple of years ago						
11-3-01	**Kostya Tszyu KO 2 Zab Judah**	**Show**	**Unified jw**	**A+**	**A+**	**B**
What controversy? When a guy goes down, gets up, and falls flat on his face, the fight's over; ask Trevor Berbick						
11-9-01	Rolanda Andrews KO 2 Mia St. John	ESPN2	jl	D	C	B-
First Lewis was upset, then Trinidad, then Judah, now St. John; are none of the game's icons safe?						
11-9-01	Tony Ayala KO 2 Manuel Lopez	ESPN2	sm	C	D+	C+
Is it us, or does Ayala get angrier and scarier every time we see him?						
11-9-01	**Irene Pacheco KO 4 Mike Trejo**	**ESPN2**	**IBF fl**	**A-**	**C-**	**C+**
After long layoff, Pacheco impresses against overmatched Trejo; how about a rematch with Hawk Makepula?						
11-10-01	Emmanuel Lucero W 12 Ivan Alvarez	Show	jf	C+	B	C+
Solid win for wild but hard-slugging Lucero, who's not as bad as he looked against John Lowey last time out						
11-10-01	Rocky Juarez KO 2 Corey Alarcon	Show	f	C	C	C
Hooks to the body chop down Alarcon; against the right guy, Juarez can get the knockout						
11-10-01	**Manny Pacquiao Tech. Draw 6 Agapito Sanchez**	**HBO**	**IBF jf**	**A**	**B+**	**B**
We guess Sanchez feels insulted if he doesn't get penalized; he was doing well enough without the fouling						
11-10-01	**Floyd Mayweather KO 9 Jesus Chavez**	**HBO**	**WBC jl**	**A+**	**B**	**B+**
Chavez' chin and heart turn potential mismatch into entertaining scrap in Mayweather's last show at 130						
11-11-01	Sam Hill KO 9 David Reid	FOXSN	sm	B-	D	B
Reid bottoms out against average guy; you don't have to be a fortune teller to have seen it coming						
11-11-01	Hector Camacho Jr. KO 4 Eric Jakubowski	FOXSN	jm	C	D+	C+
Underdog should have come in with "Jesse James Jakubowski" on his robe; Camacho would have jumped out of the ring						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime; FOXSN—Fox SportsNet; Uni—Univision; Tel—Telemundo

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF

Two new volumes from Egan are now available

Boxing bibliophiles who search for rare tomes on the Internet will have noticed that the cost of books by journalism pioneer Pierce Egan have risen sharply the past year. But thanks to Nicol Island Publishing, reprints of some of Egan's most famous works can now be purchased at an affordable price.

As noted in previous issues of THE RING, Nicol Island Publishing has already reissued Volumes I and II of Egan's masterpiece, *Boxiana*. Now Volume III is available. Originally published in 1821, it picks up where Volume II leaves off, chronicling the exploits of the leading bare knuckle fighters of the era.

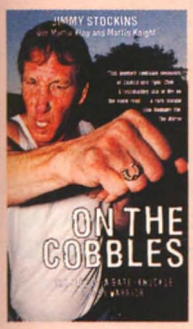
Besides colorful and detailed descriptions of the fights and fighters, there's all sorts of esoterica, including a list of the sporting houses kept by pugilists, songs and poems Egan and others wrote for various occasions, letters of challenge, and terms of combat (the 19th century version of a fight contract).

Egan did not restrict himself exclusively to writing about boxing, but boxing elements were included in many of his other works. Nicol Island Publishing has gathered much of this material in another publication, entitled *Egania*. This little volume is a real treat, as it includes excerpts from *Life In London*, (Egan's runaway bestseller about a couple of city slickers giving a country cousin a tour of London's underbelly), *Recollections Of John Thurell* (an account of the murder trial and hanging of a sometimes fight promoter), and *Grose's Classic Dictionary Of The Vulgar Tongue* (Egan's collection of slang), among others.

There's so much fascinating and historically relevant material in both *Boxiana III* and *Egania*, that it's virtually impossible to single out a particular selection as the high point. But my personal favorite is the story (from *Egania*) of Jacco Maccacco, the fighting monkey. When it comes to novelty acts, Butterbean and Mia St. John have nothing on this singular simian.

Both *Boxiana III* (530 pages, hardbound, $50) and *Egania* (137 pages, paperback, $25) are available by writing to: Nicol Island Press, 288 Mill Road, Suite B-14, Toronto, Ontario M9C 4X7, Canada. Price includes shipping and handling.

***



There is a centuries-old connection between the Sweet Science in the U.K. and gypsies, and while the traditional Romany way of life has been practically stamped out by misguided British authorities, the gypsy's love of fist fighting, particularly the bare knuckle sort, is still strong. *On The Cobbles: The Life Of A Bare-Knuckle Gypsy Warrior* (Mainstream Publishing, 208 pages, paperback, £7.99) is the story of Jimmy Stockins, a legendary Romany brawler.

Stockins' tale, which is ghosted by Martin King and Martin Knight, contains quite a bit about mainstream boxing figures, especially former British light heavyweight champion Johnny Frankham, a gypsy fighter who beat the likes of Chris Finnegan, Hershel Jacobs, and Charlie "Devil" Green.

While the retelling of Stockins' bloody battles gets a bit repetitious, the insights into gypsy culture and its association with boxing make *On The Cobbles* a lively and educational read.

—Nigel Collins

GOING OUT ON TOP

PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

Niida: Retiring as an undefeated champ

Rocky Marciano he is not. But WBA 105-pound champion Yutaka Niida, who sports an undefeated record of 14-0-3 (7), surprised the Asian boxing community by announcing his retirement from the sport in mid-October. Should he stand by his decision, Niida, 23, will be the first fighter since "The Rock" to finish his career as an unbeaten champion.

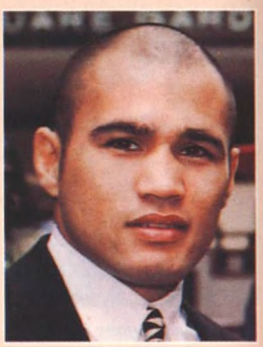
Niida said that a persisting back problem forced his premature exit. The Japanese left hooker never even got a chance to defend the title he won via unanimous decision over Chana Porpaoin in August. According to Joe Koizumi, THE RING's Far East correspondent, the champion's manager, Mitsunori Seki, tried to convince Niida not to hang up the gloves. But Niida seems to have his heart set on preserving his health and opening a jewelry shop.

We all know, though, how often retired boxers go back on their word and return to the ring. So if Niida doesn't do especially well selling gold, nobody should be surprised to see him trying to wear it again before long.

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Duran: Recovering from car accident

Panamanian great **Roberto Duran** was badly injured in an automobile accident in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in early-October, but recovered quickly and was out of the hospital several days later. Duran, a passenger in the vehicle, suffered a collapsed lung and cracked ribs. There were three others in the car, including Duran's son, **Roberto Jr.**, who sustained minor injuries, and two Argentine reporters, both of whom were injured more seriously. The driver of the car with which they collided also suffered minor injuries. Authorities indicated that alcohol might have played a role in the crash … Sorry, ladies, he's officially taken. WBC super welter champ **Oscar De La Hoya** married Puerto Rican singer **Millie Corretjer** in a private ceremony in San Juan in early-October. Can a duet album be far off? … WBC super bantamweight titlist **Willie Jorrin** was spared jail time when he pled no-contest to domestic violence charges in mid-October. Instead, Jorrin got three years probation for the alleged raping and beating of his live-in girlfriend in May … British fight promoter **Panos Eliades** also did well for himself in court, when he was cleared of fraud charges in early-October. The allegations did not concern boxing matters … Former super middleweight contender **Michael Watson** finally reached a financial settlement with the British Boxing Board of Control in mid-October over career-ending injuries suffered in a 1991 fight with **Chris Eubank**. The Board had been ordered to pay £2.5-million, but because the BBBC was in financial straits, the High Court reduced that number to a relatively meager £400,000 … In a case with potentially huge ramifications for all fighters, **Jesse James Leija** sued America Presents and, initially, was awarded $402,000 by a San Antonio judge in late-October due to **Hector Camacho Jr.** pulling out of their rematch scheduled for October 13. However, the decision was appealed, and in early-November, a second judge overturned the ruling.



Leija: Going to trial with America Presents

The case will now go to trial. The case centers around Leija's assertion that America Presents committed to the fight without checking if Camacho wanted it, Junior later declined, and the promotional company then claimed the cut Camacho suffered in their first fight, on July 7, hadn't yet healed. Leija lost not only his promised purse for the fight, but also the opportunity to fight on the December 8 De La Hoya-**Roman Karmazin** pay-per-view undercard because he believed he had the fight with Camacho on tap. "I'd rather do my fighting in the ring than in the courtroom," Leija said, "but I have to do what I have to do to make sure that the promoters stop screwing the fighters around" … One death to report this issue, as **John J. Walsh**, the winningest coach in collegiate boxing history, died in early-November at the age of 89. From 1933-'57, Walsh's University of Wisconsin team won an unparalleled six national championships, and his fighters won 38 individual NCAA titles. As a fighter, Walsh participated as a featherweight in the 1932 U.S. Olympic Trials.

THE PUNCHLINES

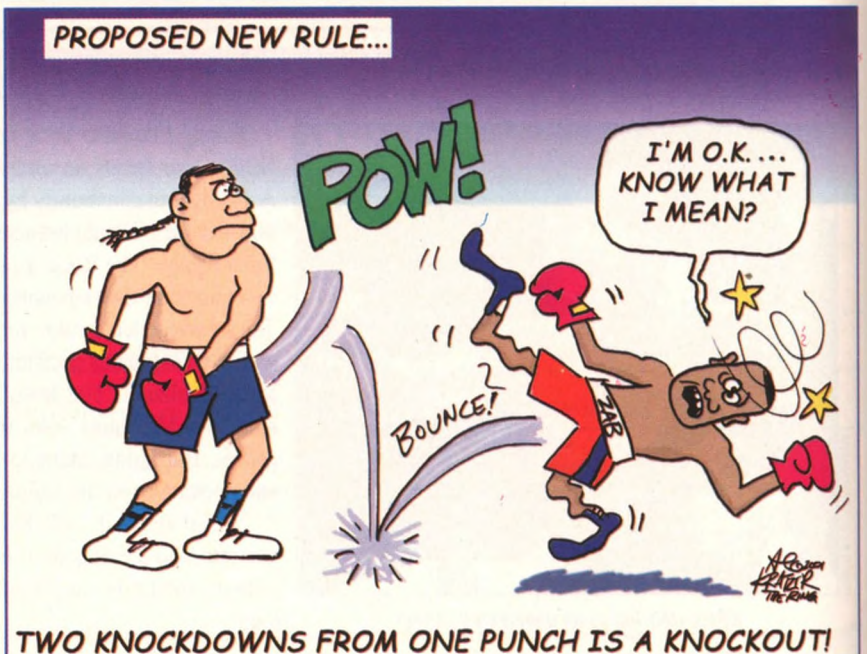
"I never want to box a southpaw again unless it's for a world title."

—Light heavyweight contender David Telesco, after lefty Faustino Gonzalez gave him fits until Telesco rallied to stop him in the seventh

"I don't hate Zab. Why should I say I don't like him if I do like him? To make sales go higher?"

—Undisputed junior welterweight champion Kostya Tszyu, prior to his fight with Judah, responding to questions about why he wasn't trash-talking

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



The RING®
"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

RATINGS ANALYSIS

(For period ended November 11, 2001)

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Welterweight
2. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
   Middleweight
3. **ROY JONES**
   Light Heavyweight
4. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Featherweight
5. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
   Junior Lightweight
6. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Middleweight
7. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Junior Middleweight
8. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Junior Flyweight
9. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Junior Welterweight
10. **ERIK MORALES**
    Featherweight

HEAVYWEIGHTS: No changes in boxing's glamour division, but with major matches—Hasim Rahman-Lennox Lewis II, Wladimir Klitschko-David Izon, Lance Whitaker-Jameel McCline—scheduled for the near future, there could be a significant shake-up next issue.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: Former WBA titlist Fabrice Tiozzo (currently eighth) hasn't fought since losing the belt to Virgil Hill on December 9, 2000, and is danger of being dropped due to inactivity.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: No changes.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No changes.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Bronco McKart (fifth last issue) edged Alex Bunema (seventh last issue) via close decision, so both retain their previous positions.

WELTERWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: Zab Judah slips from second to third following his TKO defeat to unified champion Kostya Tszyu, who stays atop the division at number one. Judah's demotion moves Sharmba Mitchell, who lasted seven rounds with Tszyu, compared to two for Judah, from third to second.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Streaking Phillip Ndou (10th last issue) jumps to number eight after his win over previously undefeated Cassius Baloyi. John Brown (eighth last issue) and Alejandro Gonzalez (formerly ninth) drop one place each to accommodate Ndou's advancement.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: Juan Manuel Marquez extends his winning streak with a kayo of Johnny Walker to climb from 10th to seventh. Mbulelo Botile (seventh last issue), William Abelyan (eighth), and Guty Espadas (ninth), slide to eighth, ninth, and 10th, respectively.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: Oscar Larios (seventh last issue) and Michael Brodie (eighth last issue) both tallied good wins recently to rise to sixth and seventh, respectively, while Enrique Sanchez (formerly sixth) falls to eighth.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: No changes.

FLYWEIGHTS: The busy brother team of Alejandro and Fernando Montiel overtake dormant Medgoen Toyota-Thailand (fifth last issue) to snag the fifth and sixth positions, respectively. Medgoen is now seventh.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

STRAWWEIGHTS: Citing a chronic back injury, WBA champion Yutaka Niida (first last issue) retires and exits the rankings. Everybody rated below him last issue moves up one spot each, with WBC boss Jose Aguirre taking over the top spot. Aboard at number 10 is undefeated Miguel Barrera, who fought to a technical draw with IBF titlist Roberto Leyva in his most recent start.

POUND-FOR-POUND: Tszyu's upset TKO of Judah earns the Australia-based Russian the ninth spot. Tszyu's upgrade pushes Erik Morales down from ninth to 10th, while Tim Austin (10th last issue) departs for the time being. The IBF bantamweight champ needs to compete against better opposition to hold down a place among boxing's elite. ■

THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended November 11, 2001

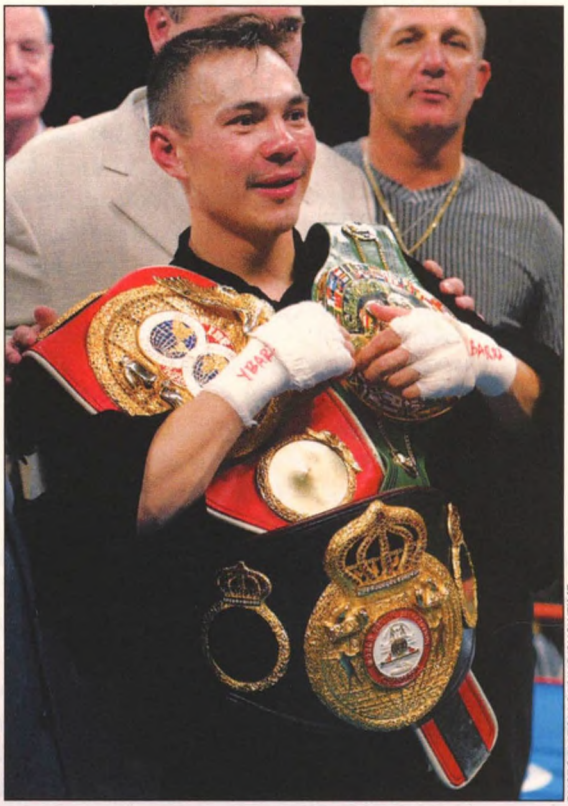


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Kostya Tszyu unified the 140-pound title and re-entered the pound-for-pound ratings

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **HASIM RAHMAN** Baltimore, MD *35-2 (WBC/IBF Champ)*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *38-2-1*
3. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO** Ukraine *37-1*
4. **MIKE TYSON** Catskill, NY *49-3*
5. **CHRIS BYRD** Flint, MI *34-2*
6. **JOHN RUIZ** Chelsea, MA *37-4 (WBA Champ)*
7. **KIRK JOHNSON** Canada *32-0-1*
8. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Fairburn, GA *37-5-1*
9. **LANCE WHITAKER** Mission Hills, CA *23-1*
10. **DAVID TUA** New Zealand *38-3*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA** Whittier, CA *34-2 (WBC Champ)*
2. **FERNANDO VARGAS** Oxnard, CA *22-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **WINKY WRIGHT** St. Petersburg, FL *42-3 (IBF Champ)*
4. **FRANCISCO CASTILLEJO** Spain *51-5*
5. **BRONCO McKART** Monroe, MI *45-3*
6. **YORY BOY CAMPAS** Mexico *79-4*
7. **ALEX BUNEMA** Dallas, TX *19-3-1*
8. **J.C. CANDELO** Denver, CO *23-3-3*
9. **ROMAN KARMAZIN** Russia *28-0-1*
10. **STEVE ROBERTS** England *27-0*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA** Mexico *54-3*
2. **NASEEM HAMED** England *35-1*
3. **ERIK MORALES** Mexico *41-0 (WBC Champ)*
4. **JOHNNY TAPIA** Albuquerque, NM *50-2-2*
5. **DERRICK GAINER** Pensacola, FL *38-5 (WBA Champ)*
6. **FRANKIE TOLEDO** Paterson, NJ *40-5-1 (IBF Champ)*
7. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ** Mexico *37-2*
8. **MBULELO BOTILE** South Africa *27-2*
9. **WILLIAM ABELYAN** Las Vegas, NV *17-4-1*
10. **GUTY ESPADAS** Mexico *34-4*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **BONES ADAMS** Henderson, KY *41-4-3*
2. **PAULIE AYALA** Ft. Worth, TX *33-1*
3. **MANNY PACQUIAO** Philippines *33-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **WILLIE JORRIN** Sacramento, CA *28-0 (WBC Champ)*
5. **LEHLO LEDWABA** South Africa *33-2-1*
6. **OSCAR LARIOS** Mexico *41-3-1*
7. **MICHAEL BRODIE** England *31-1*
8. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ** Mexico *28-2-2*
9. **JOSE LUIS VALBUENA** Venezuela *19-2-1*
10. **AGAPITO SANCHEZ** Dominican Republic *33-7-2*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **TIM AUSTIN** Cincinnati, OH *23-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **VEERAPOL SAHAPROM** Thailand *32-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **EIDY MOYA** Venezuela *15-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **RAFAEL MARQUEZ** Mexico *26-3*
5. **MARK JOHNSON** Washington, D.C. *40-2*
6. **JOHNNY BREDAHL** Denmark *51-2*
7. **MAURICIO MARTINEZ** Panama *19-3-1*
8. **ADAN VARGAS** Mexico *36-3-1*
9. **HERIBERTO RUIZ** Mexico *22-1-1*
10. **GENARO GARCIA** Mexico *24-3*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ**
   Germany 34-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **VASSILIY JIROV**
   Kazakhstan 30-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **VIRGIL HILL**
   Bismarck, ND 47-3 (WBA Champ)
4. **JOHNNY NELSON**
   England 40-12-1
5. **CARL THOMPSON**
   England 28-5
6. **O'NEIL BELL**
   Atlanta, GA 17-1
7. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ**
   Argentina 32-4-1
8. **FABRICE TIOZZO**
   France 42-2
9. **LOUIS AZILLE**
   Jersey City, NJ 16-0-2
10. **WAYNE BRAITHWAITE**
    Guyana 16-0

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **ROY JONES**
   Pensacola, FL 45-1 (WBC/WBA/IBF Champ)
2. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI**
   Germany 44-0
3. **ERIC HARDING**
   Philadephia, PA 20-1-1
4. **REGGIE JOHNSON**
   Houston, TX 42-6-1
5. **MONTELL GRIFFIN**
   Chicago, IL 41-3
6. **ANTONIO TARVER**
   Orlando, FL 18-1
7. **JULIO GONZALEZ**
   Huntington Beach, CA 27-1
8. **BRUNO GIRARD**
   France 39-2-2
9. **LOU DEL VALLE**
   Bronx, NY 31-2-1
10. **CLINTON WOODS**
    England 40-1

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **SVEN OTTKE**
   Germany 24-0 (IBF Champ)
2. **JOE CALZAGHE**
   Wales 32-0
3. **BYRON MITCHELL**
   Ozark, AL 24-1-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **ANTWUN ECHOLS**
   Davenport, IA 25-4-1
5. **CHARLES BREWER**
   Philadelphia, PA 37-8
6. **THOMAS TATE**
   Houston, TX 41-6
7. **ERIC LUCAS**
   Canada 33-4-3 (WBC Champ)
8. **DINGAAN THOBELA**
   South Africa 40-8-2
9. **MADS LARSEN**
   Denmark 37-1
10. **MANUEL SIACA**
    Puerto Rico 15-4

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
   Philadelphia, PA 40-2-1 (IBF/WBC/WBA Champ)
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico 40-1
3. **WILLIAM JOPPY**
   Washington, D.C. 32-2-1
4. **ARMAND KRAJNC**
   Sweden 26-0
5. **HARRY SIMON**
   Namibia 22-0
6. **KEITH HOLMES**
   Washington, D.C. 35-3
7. **HOWARD EASTMAN**
   England 32-0
8. **HASSINE CHERIFI**
   France 32-5-1
9. **CARL DANIELS**
   St. Louis, MO 47-3-1
10. **ANTONIO PERUGINO**
    Italy 17-0

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA 38-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **ANDREW LEWIS**
   Guyana 21-0-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA 33-0 (IBF Champ)
4. **THOMAS DAMGAARD**
   Denmark 26-0
5. **DANIEL SANTOS**
   Puerto Rico 24-2-1
6. **ANTONIO DIAZ**
   Coachella, CA 37-3
7. **ANTONIO MARGARITO**
   Mexico 25-3
8. **MANUEL GOMEZ**
   Mexico 22-10
9. **MICHELE PICCIRILLO**
   Italy 36-1-1
10. **JAMES PAGE**
    Pittsburg, CA 25-4

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia 28-1-1 (WBA/WBC/IBF Champ)
2. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
   Washington, D.C. 47-3
3. **ZAB JUDAH**
   Brooklyn, NY 27-1
4. **DeMARCUS CORLEY**
   Washington, D.C. 26-1-1
5. **ENER JULIO**
   Colombia 21-3
6. **RANDALL BAILEY**
   Miami, FL 24-1
7. **MICKY WARD**
   Lowell, MA 37-10
8. **BEN TACKIE**
   Ghana 23-2
9. **OKTAY URKAL**
   Germany 28-1
10. **TERRONN MILLETT**
    St. Louis, MO 26-2-1

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **JOSE LUIS CASTILLO**
   Mexico 44-4-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO 33-2-1
3. **PAUL SPADAFORA**
   Pittsburgh, PA 34-0 (IBF Champ)
4. **RAUL BALBI**
   France 49-4-1 (WBA Champ)
5. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN 39-5-1
6. **JULIO DIAZ**
   Coachella, CA 23-1
7. **ARTUR GRIGORIAN**
   Uzbekistan 33-0
8. **COLIN DUNNE**
   England 35-1
9. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA**
   San Antonio, TX 42-5-2
10. **JUAN LAZCANO**
    El Paso, TX 28-2-1

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
   Grand Rapids, MI 27-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **JOEL CASAMAYOR**
   Miami, FL 26-0 (WBA Champ)
3. **ACELINO FREITAS**
   Brazil 30-0
4. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Mexico 35-2
5. **STEVE FORBES**
   Las Vegas, NV 20-1 (IBF Champ)
6. **JONGKWON BAEK**
   South Korea 22-1-1
7. **LAKVA SIM**
   Mongolia 14-2-1
8. **PHILLIP NDOU**
   South Africa 25-1
9. **JOHN BROWN**
   Atlantic City, NJ 23-9
10. **ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ**
    Mexico 47-4-1

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **MASAMORI TOKUYAMA**
   North Korea 25-2-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **CELES KOBAYASHI**
   Japan 24-4-3 (WBA Champ)
3. **FELIX MACHADO**
   Venezuela 21-3-1 (IBF Champ)
4. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines 43-4-2
5. **SAMSON TOYOTA-THAILAND**
   Thailand 41-0
6. **JESUS ROJAS**
   Venezuela 34-9-3
7. **PEDRO ALCAZAR**
   Panama 22-1-1
8. **IN JOO CHO**
   South Korea 18-2
9. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia 27-3
10. **MARTIN CASTILLO**
    Mexico 20-0

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **ERIC MOREL**
   Madison, WI 30-0 (WBA Champ)
2. **PONGSAKLEK SINGWANGCHA**
   Thailand 41-2 (WBC Champ)
3. **IRENE PACHECO**
   Colombia 26-0 (IBF Champ)
4. **HAWK MAKEPULA**
   South Africa 19-1
5. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico 47-3
6. **FERNANDO MONTIEL**
   Mexico 23-0-1
7. **MEDGOEN TOYOTA-THAILAND**
   Thailand 24-1
8. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand 39-1
9. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
   Philippines 11-1-2
10. **ALEXANDER MUNOZ**
    Venezuela 16-0

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Mexico 50-0-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **YOSAM CHOI**
   South Korea 23-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **PICHIT C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand 23-1
4. **ROSENDO ALVAREZ**
   Nicaragua 29-2-1 (WBA Champ)
5. **BEBIS MENDOZA**
   Colombia 26-1
6. **NELSON DIEPPA**
   Puerto Rico 21-2-1
7. **JORGE ARCE**
   Mexico 27-3-1
8. **HIDENOBU HONDA**
   Japan 23-1
9. **ZOLANI PETELO**
   South Africa 17-3-2
10. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
    South Africa 51-12-2

STRAWWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 105 pounds

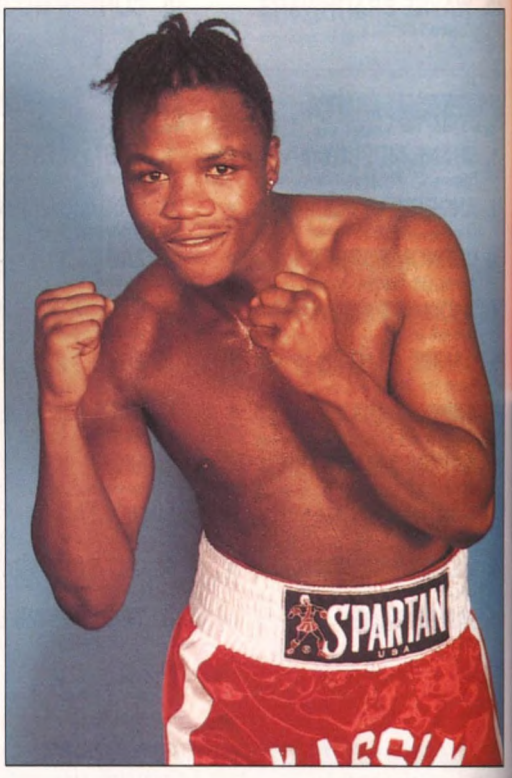
1. **JOSE AGUIRRE**
   Mexico 26-1-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **ROBERTO LEYVA**
   Mexico 18-0-1 (IBF Champ)
3. **CHANA PORPAOIN**
   Thailand 44-2-2
4. **KEITARO HOSHINO**
   Japan 21-7
5. **JOMA GAMBOA**
   Philippines 31-6-1
6. **NOEL ARAMBULET**
   Venezuela 13-2-1
7. **WANDEE SINGWANGCHA**
   Thailand 28-4
8. **KERMIN GUARDIA**
   Colombia 33-2
9. **DANIEL REYES**
   Colombia 24-1
10. **MIGUEL BARRERA**
    Colombia 20-0-2

NEW FACES

KASSIM OUMA

Junior Middleweight

By Joe Santoliquito



PRO RECORD

1998		
July 10	Napoleon Middlebrooks, Ft. Lauder., FL	KO 1
July 25	Alton Madison, Lake Worth, FL	KO 3
Sept. 12	Joseph Ragusa, Lake Worth	KO 1
Oct. 16	Renan Reyes, Ft. Lauderdale	KO 1
Nov. 7	Rodney Weston, Lake Worth	KO 1
Nov. 20	Jerry Smith, Ocala, FL	KO 3
1999		
Jan. 15	Victor Ramos, Lake Worth	KO 5
Jan. 30	Emiliano Valdez, Miami, FL	W 6
June 18	Angel Villegas, West Palm Beach, FL	KO 8
Nov. 20	Agustin Silva, Miami	KO by 1
2000		
May 4	Alex Bunema, Dallas, TX	KO 5
Oct. 13	Kuvanych Toygonbayev, Ledyard, CT	W 6
2001		
April 26	James Coker, Dallas, TX	Tech. Draw 2
June 29	Tony Marshall, Gulfport, MS	W 10
Sept. 7	Verno Phillips, Hankinson, ND	W 10

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DRAW	KOs
15	13	1	1	9

The shadowy figures are embedded in Kassim Ouma's subconscious. He tosses and turns in his sleep, trying to escape. But they're always there, grabbing him in the middle of a rainy afternoon, slapping his face every time he cries, and yelling at him that his mother can't save him. Ouma relives a child's nightmare over and over again, filled with menacing men brandishing machine guns. Regardless of what Ouma does, the images will always be as much a part of him as his hands or feet.

Ouma's early life makes the dangers of boxing almost innocuous by comparison, and the Ugandan junior middleweight fights with a fearlessness that is rooted in those childhood experiences. He is plagued by flashbacks of what happened to him when he was seven years old, and sometimes they prevent him from sleeping at night.

"I lived with Kassim for a year when he first got here in the United States, and for one, it was always hard for him to sleep," recalled Johnny Bumphus, the former WBA junior welterweight champ and Ouma's co-trainer, along with Slim Jim Robinson. "What he experienced as a child might be the reason why. He does go into the ring like it's survival, which it actually is."

Ouma is the seventh of 11 kids raised by his parents, who were farmers in Uganda, where they toiled under the glaring sun to grow maize, potatoes, and millet. They lived in a home made of trees and grass, with dirt floors and a thatched roof, and went to a community well for water.

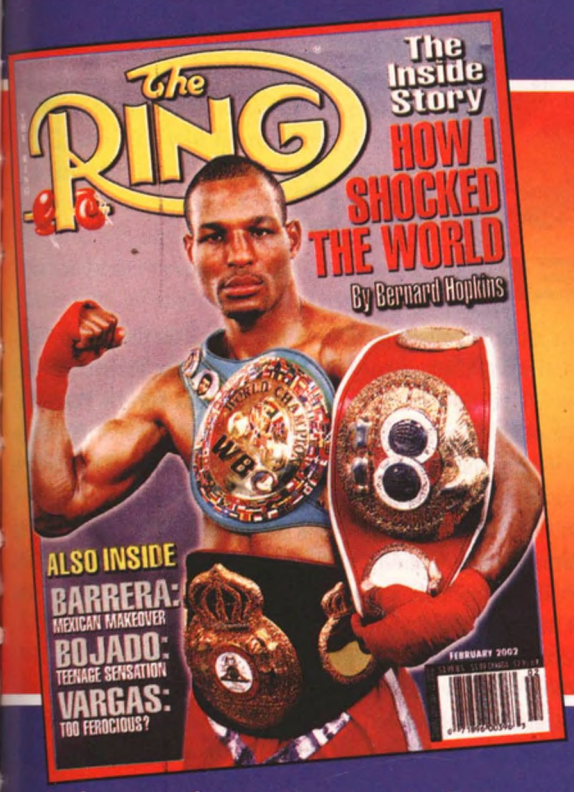
Uganda is a small nation in eastern Africa, constantly mired in political unrest. In the mid-1980s, the rebellious National Resistance Army faction was fighting to overtake the existing government forces, the Uganda National Liberation Army, headed by Milton Obote. The NRA was ruthless in its commitment, so much so that guerrilla units resorted to kidnapping young children to bolster its ranks. Ouma was one of those unfortunate children they scooped up one afternoon.

"I can remember it was raining," recalled the 23-year-old Ouma in his thick Ugandan accent. "We were sitting on the floor in school, when someone broke through the classroom and yelled for everyone to get out. I was like, 'Where are we going?' and they yelled at me to shut up. They put us in something like a garbage truck, so we couldn't see where we were going. I was crying. I was afraid that I wouldn't see my mother

(Continued on page 90)

SUBSCRIBE TO THE RING AND $19 IS YOURS TO KEEP!

That's just about what you'll save when you subscribe to THE RING for a year!



Each issue of THE RING contains the best in worldwide boxing coverage with the most dynamic ringside photography ... Columns by the most renowned boxing journalists ... The most respected ratings in the business ... A dip into our vast archives with The Ring Classic ... New Faces ... Camera Clicks.

THERE'S MORE!

Alternating with THE RING every other month is the 108-page RING EXTRA. It's THE RING—and then some!

SAVE ALMOST $19.00!

Now is the perfect time to take advantage of this tremendous offer. With our full-color format, THE RING continues to raise the standard for boxing magazines it first established in 1922!

Send To: **London Publishing Co.**, P.O. Box 2021, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8121

THREE WAYS TO SAVE!

Please Check Off The One You Wish To Order:

☐ THE RING (6 issues) for $19.00. That's a savings of nearly $5.00!

☐ THE RING EXTRA (6 issues) for $28.50. That's a savings of more than $7.00!

Save $19.00!

☐ All 12 issues of THE RING for $41.00.

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____
Expiration Date: ___/___
MO/YR

Signature: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT. ____

CITY _____ STATE ____ ZIP _____

☐ New Subscription ☐ Renewal

FOR CANADA AND ALL OTHER COUNTRIES: $23.80 FOR THE RING ($34.00 AIRMAIL); $33.30 FOR THE RING EXTRA ($43.50 AIRMAIL); $50.60 FOR THE COMBINATION ($71.00 AIRMAIL). INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS ONLY IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY. PLEASE ALLOW UP TO EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE YOU RECEIVE YOUR FIRST MAGAZINE. OFFER EXPIRES JANUARY 31, 2003.

A1201R

5783/11-01/4c

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

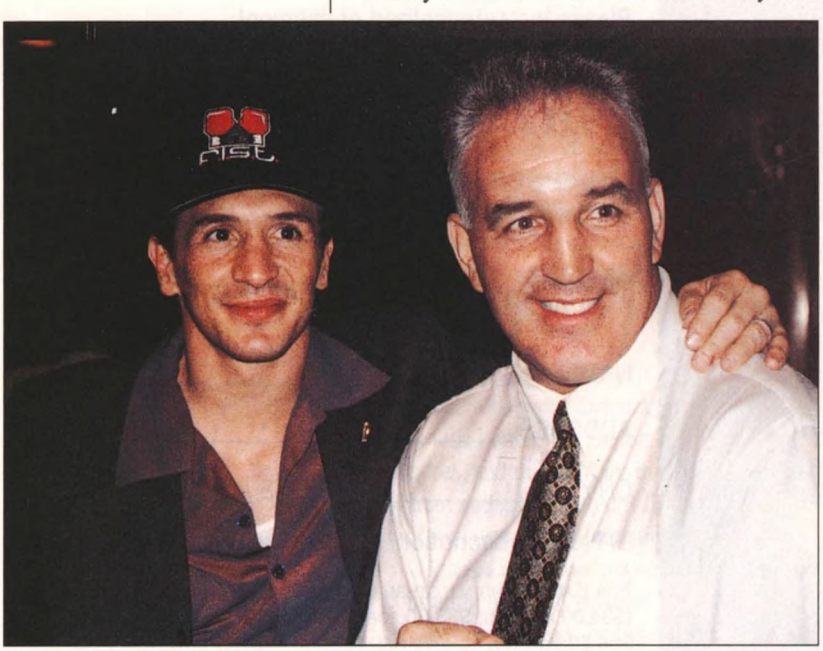
WITH THIS RING, I THEE WED

This is the time of the year that your intrepid columnist always leans back on the couch, kicks his feet up on the coffee table, and turns unabashedly reflective. Another anniversary has passed, and if my math is correct, I've now been on the boxing beat for 18 years. Or, approximately, 43 percent of my life. The other 57 percent, apparently, was spent preparing me for those days when I'd find myself interviewing the Prince Naseem Hameds, sitting through Don King press conferences, and watching Danish heavyweights unintentionally belly dance.

Eighteen years. *Whew!* It only seems like 50. Whether you're a journalist, a fan, or something in between, the simple truth is that maintaining a relationship with boxing is like trying to hold together a marriage to Elizabeth Taylor. Better men than us have tried and failed miserably, and it's tougher than any outsider could ever imagine. But that doesn't mean it's not possible.

The secret to a good marriage between you and the fight game is … well, there are actually a few secrets. If you'll be so kind as to allow me, I'd like to share the wisdom a guy acquires after spending 18 years in tiny dressing rooms, at blood-splattered ringsides, and on the phone with Bob Arum. Pay attention to these tips and you and the sport you long ago fell in love with will be happy for as long as you both shall live:

•Listen to your heart, and nothing else: Granted, it isn't easy to refrain from slapping the uninformed weenies who chime in with a sarcastic remark whenever you make the mistake of mentioning that you're a follower of the Sweet Science. My personal collection of know-it-alls who have badmouthed the fight game to me include everyone from an aunt who's so liberal, she makes Hillary Rodham Clinton look like Barry Goldwater, to an eye doctor who, citing the danger of detached retinas, once told me he thought boxing was "disgusting." (Yeah, almost as disgusting as his fee.)



Tell the boxing haters about the great things Cooney is doing with F.I.S.T.

Avoid being suckered by these nitwits into arguments over the merits of the sport. Instead, kill a few of their boxers-as-savages stereotypes by informing them of all the great work former heavyweight contender Renaldo Snipes has been doing in conjunction with the relief effort at the World Trade Center. Tell them about Gerry Cooney's contributions to F.I.S.T. Share with them the story of all that Johnny Tapia has overcome outside the ring. Give them some insight into Shane Mosley's close relationship with his dad and the emotional pain that the death of his mother still brings to Oscar De La Hoya.

Allow them to see that boxing is more than punches flying, that it's human interest stories and personal dramas. Bravery and toughness. Dignity and honor. And if they're still not convinced that two guys facing off in the middle of the ring is a

noble pursuit and not the decline of civilization?

Screw 'em.

•Do your best impersonation of Felix Trinidad's old man: In other words, throw in the towel. As comedian George Carlin likes to say, don't allow yourself any hopes or dreams, and you'll never end up disappointed.

Surrender the fantasy that the WBA, WBC, and IBF will be rendered impotent one day and that boxing will be completely under federal control. Accept the fact that the game will never have more than three or four (and rarely even that many) undisputed champions at any one time. Give up the hope that 15-round title fights and regular telecasts on the commercial networks will ever return. Shrug your shoulders and say, "What the heck," when plans move forward for Madison Square Garden to be replaced by a sterile, Staples Center look-alike. And stop calling for a Roy Jones-Dariusz Michalczewski clash.

PHOTO BY JEFF GROSS/ALLSPORT

Talk to the old codger about Mosley's body attack

•Look at the cup as one-tenth full: Instead of nine-tenths empty. View Don King as an often-entertaining villain who's crucial to many storylines. (Sort of like The Penguin on *Batman*.) Think of ESPN2's Max Kellerman less as an overbearing windbag and more as a kid who is full of passion and knowledge, something too many members of the boxing media are lacking these days. Don't blame Lennox Lewis for taking Rahman lightly the first time around. Instead, admire the Briton's dedication to his new craft: acting. Oh, yeah, and stop getting on De La Hoya's case about all those trainers he's fired. For a change, commend him for creating job openings in an economy that sure could use them.

•Walk out on walkout bouts: That's what they're there for. As a matter of fact …

•Pick and choose all of your fights. And, for heaven's sake, don't feel guilty about it. Boxing almost died from overexposure in the '60s, and even in these days of limited television and print coverage, there can be too much of it at times.

Watch every bout on every show aired by ESPN2, Univision, and Telemundo, and pretty soon every Tom, Dick, and Jose Luis looks the same. I don't know about you, but I sometimes get tired of watching fights, even though it's part of my job. For a change one of these Friday nights, take the kids out to a movie or let the wife watch *Once And Again* or *Law And Order*. For it you'll be a better father and husband, not to mention a less burned-out fan.

•The next time someone asks you if a big fight is fixed, respond with a couple of questions of your own: For example: Didn't Cal Ripken's home run in his final All-Star Game come a little too easily? Why did crowd hero and U.S. Tennis Association poster boy Pete Sampras get the benefit of every close call on his unlikely march to the U.S. Open finals this past September? Wasn't it too perfect of a storybook finish when Dale Earnhardt Jr. won the Pepsi 400 on the same track on which his father was killed five months earlier?

Am I suggesting that the aforementioned were examples of the fix being in? Not at all. I'm just pointing out that the conspiracy theorists could keep themselves pretty busy if they turned their attention to some other sports for a change.

•Make the classics a staple of your diet: Flip the dial to ESPN Classic, watch everything from "The Thrilla In Manila" and Joe Frazier-Jimmy Ellis I to Roberto Duran-Esteban DeJesus I and Matt Franklin-Richie Kates, and you'll remember why you were attracted to the sport in the first place.

•Understand that we're a dying breed … literally. The absence of boxing on the commercial networks has virtually assured that when your octogenarian next-door neighbor with the Rocky Marciano autographed gloves on his mantle passes away, he's not going to be replaced by any of the teenagers on the block.

Because the boxing connoisseur is such an endangered species, he should be appreciated. If you can't help but overhear that the guy at the far end of the bar knows a thing or two about Mosley's body attack (or even knows who Sugar Shane is), don't be put off by his having downed six shots of Jack Daniel's and missed his mouth when he tried to swallow a handful of beer nuts. Engage him in conversation. Tell him that you think Hopkins would have given Hagler hell, or that Larry Holmes had a better jab than any of today's big men, or that you, too, are terrified that there will be a Holyfield-Ruiz IV.

Then buy him his seventh shot of J.D., give him a ride home, and let him know that if he ever gives up on this game, you'll give his sister's address to Tony Ayala Jr.

•Don't take the little things for granted: Like gorgeous round card girls in bikinis, free autographs from the most approachable athletes in any pro sport, dream matchups that don't require a regular season and three rounds of playoffs before reaching fruition, great venues (MSG, Philly's Blue Horizon, the Kronk Gym), HBO's and Showtime's camera angles, shocking upsets, boxing Web sites that provide overnight results from halfway around the globe, a sweaty Mia St. John, the poetic postfight summations of Larry Merchant, and some of the most colorful and creative souvenir T-shirts you'll ever see.

•No matter what, don't ever be embarrassed: Just remember that there are diehard fans of the X Games, the Iditarod, NASCAR, beach volleyball, tractor pulls, synchronized swimming, the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, and a whole lot of stuff created and produced by Vince McMahon. ■

DIGGING DEEP

By Ivan Goldman

BACK FROM THE HORROR

Every once in a while, boxing, like a perfect right hand from Joe Louis, rises to magnificence. It tears straight through all the duplicity, the dealmaking, the trash talk, the crummy officiating, all of it.

And what's left standing is pure and right, something that makes all of us proud. We reached that level when ESPN2's *Friday Night Fights* put on its first card after the hideous events of September 11.

That evening Teddy Atlas, so articulate on the power of love, was touched by angels. His moving tribute to his missing nephew, New York Fire Department Lt. Greg Atlas, and the firefighters and police officers who went into the towers with him will be remembered by many of us for a very long time. It was poetry in the best sense of the word.

The professionalism and support of Atlas' on-camera buddies Brian Kenny, Bob Papa, and Max Kellerman were a tangible presence. You could also feel the love from all the people behind the camera. The succinct but powerful words of the polished Ed Derian, the ringing of the 10-count, the flash of the Liberty Bell, the respectful, understanding demeanor of the fans at Philadelphia's Blue Horizon, the powerful a cappella "God Bless America" from Bunny Sigler—it was all a treasure.

We had holes in our hearts, but knew we had to get back to our lives. *Friday Night Fights* helped us do that without subterfuge or phony theatrics. It was all genuine and loaded with class.

Atlas: Poetic in the aftermath of tragedy

BAD RAP: On that Friday night card, referee Eddie Cotton took a lot of heat for stopping the junior middleweight battle between Manard Reed and Mike Stewart in the sixth round. Lots of folks apparently thought Reed looked okay and could have gone on.

They're wrong.

In some ways, yes, Reed looked all right. I'm sure he told Cotton he wanted to continue. It's likely he sounded convincing. That's because he probably believed what he was saying. But in that last fusillade, Stewart threw eight big shots and landed seven, all absolutely clean.

When a pro like Reed is absorbing punch after punch like that, he's not okay. There's a circuit broken between his body and brain. It's time to stop it. Hats off to Cotton.

BERNARD'S ANGLES: Magnificent as he was trading punches with the mighty Tito Trinidad, Bernard Hopkins may have been even more impressive between rounds, when he eased onto his stool like a working stiff on the 8:05 bus. After each three-minute segment of fierce combat, Hopkins was never even breathing hard. Scary.

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Cotton: Made the right call

Hopkins' prefight strategy was regrettable, intolerant, ugly, unfair, undignified, and utterly brilliant. The pressure is always on the guy who's supposed to win, which of course was the heavily favored Trinidad.

By twice throwing down the Puerto Rican flag in very public settings and somehow suffering no life-threatening injuries from the enraged Puerto Ricans all around him, Hopkins doubled the pressure on Trinidad. Now Tito didn't just have to win. He had to avenge the savaged dignity of his people.

I was sure Hopkins would apologize after the fight for committing his unseemly acts that hyped the show while helping to take Tito off his game. But then came the unspeakable terrorist attacks. When the bout was quite correctly postponed, circumstances forced Hopkins to come clean and praise Trinidad and the Puerto Rican people *before* the fight.

"Felix Trinidad and I stand together against this kind of horror because all decent people stand together," he said. Amen.

NO MAS WAS RIGHT: Felix Trinidad Sr. was impressive when he had the good sense to stop the fight in the 12th round. His son was hurt, dazed, and too far behind to win on points.

As I watched Trinidad Sr. do the right thing, it brought to mind Eduardo Garcia, who didn't show the same clarity of thought when his fighter, Fernando Vargas, was viciously taken apart by Tito.

When Vargas watched the tape of his fight, he should have told Garcia, "I was out of it. Why didn't you throw in the towel?" Unfortunately, most fighters are too proud to ask a question like that.

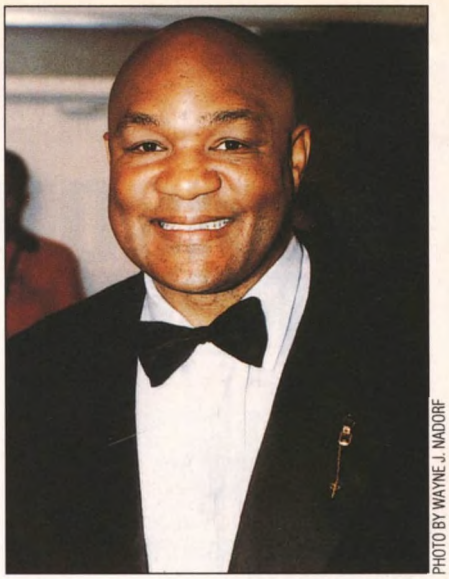


PHOTO BY WAYNE J. NADORF

Foreman: Absurd analysis

Garcia, clearly an exceptional trainer in the gym, seems to lose his judgment when he's working the corner. His own son, junior lightweight Robert Garcia, has taken more than one unnecessary beating.

Fighters like Johnny Tapia and Oscar De La Hoya get slammed for changing their trainers as regularly as bath towels. Then there are fighters like Vargas, who hang in there with cornermen far too long.

HUH?: According to HBO analyst George Foreman, Hopkins would grow tired from destroying Tito. Therefore, the one-sided beating was certain to help Trinidad in the later rounds. Was anyone able to follow this logic? George was so convincing, he probably had one or two listeners agreeing with him.

Joe Calzaghe and Dariusz Michalczewski like to complain that Roy Jones won't give them a match. They make a good point. But if they're so eager to prove themselves, one could ask why they don't fight each other. Reminds me of the days when Ike Quartey and Trinidad were considered the best matches out there for Oscar De La Hoya. Calling out Oscar got to be a full-time job for both of them. And of course they never did fight each other.

PHOTO BY BRIAN CANNON/DKP

Hopkins: Magnificent in more ways than one

TALE OF THE TONNAGE: It seems such a waste that Mike Tyson traveled all the way to Copenhagen to prove he's still good enough to beat a fat, old white guy with no punch.

"I am in the best shape of my life," announced Brian Nielsen. That was shortly before he wallowed out of his corner like a whale out of water. ■

BEING THERE

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

Some fights, such as Roy Jones' kayo of Bryant Brannon, are held in the Garden's 5,000-seat Theater

By Robert Mladinich

While Madison Square Garden bills itself as the "The World's Most Famous Arena," most boxing aficionados refer to it simply as the Mecca. Like its three predecessors, the current Garden is situated in the heart of midtown Manhattan and has provided the premier showcase for the world's most prestigious athletes and performers. Since 1879, history has been continually made at the fabled arena, which moved from West 49th Street and Eighth Avenue to its present location in February '68.

On March 8, 1971, MSG hosted what many people still consider the most highly anticipated sporting event of the 20th century, the epic first battle between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier.

"I can't conceive of a better fight ever being held at the Garden, or anywhere else for that matter," said Associated Press boxing writer Ed Schuyler.

Over the next three decades, the Garden has played host to numerous boxing events, many of which became bigger than the fights themselves. Much of that had to do with nothing more than the fact that they were being held there. Because so many legends, including Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Muhammad Ali, and Sugar Ray Robinson, have fought at one of the Garden sites over the years, the arena still holds much metaphorical significance for fighters and fans alike. There is an aura not only about fighting at the Garden, but also about just being within its hallowed walls.

"There is so much history associated with the Garden, it's become like a boxing shrine," said historian Michael Silver. "I can only compare watching a fight there to attending a baseball game at Yankee Stadium, Wrigley Field, or Fenway Park versus one of these new domed arenas."

People still talk about the night in '72 when a young tiger named Roberto Duran wrested the lightweight title from Ken Buchanan. Nor can they forget the electrifying evening 11 years later

Duran, pictured vs. Davey Moore, was always a big draw at MSG

IF YOU GO

Location: Seventh Ave, between 31st and 33rd Streets, New York, NY. Mailing address: 2 Penn Plaza, New York, NY 10121; phone: 212-465-MSG1; Web address: www.thegarden.com.

Directions: Located directly above Pennsylvania Station, which is easily accessible by subway, commuter train, bus, and car. Check the web address for specific directions, as well as a list of area parking lots.

Hours of Operation: It depends on the event, but the arena, as well as The Theater, a smaller venue within the Garden, is booked continually, day and night, throughout the year with every form of entertainment imaginable.

Who to look out for: Unlike many of the semi-interested high rollers who attend big fights as guests of host casinos, the majority of the eclectic MSG crowd are dyed-in-the-wool fans. There's always an abundance of easily accessible active and retired fighters in attendance. Other big-fight regulars include actor Danny Aiello, director Spike Lee, artist Leroy Neiman, broadcast legends Walter Cronkite and Mike Wallace, and cast members from such popular television shows as *The Sopranos* and *Oz*.

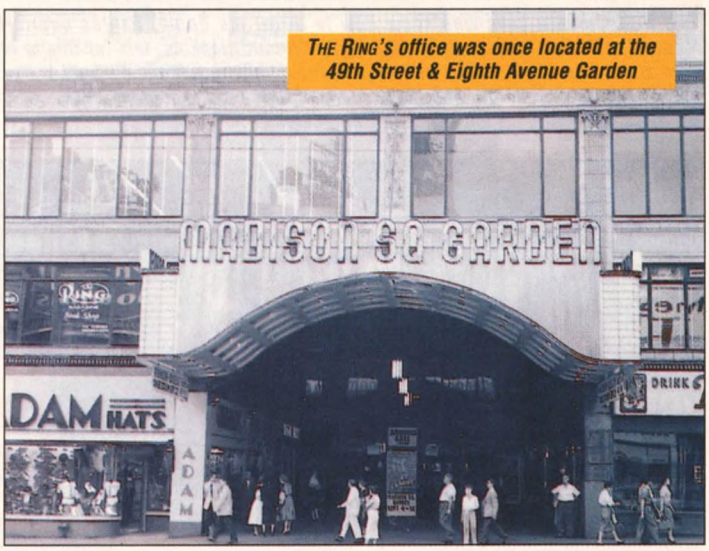
Advice to greenhorns: Don't be scared off by any lingering memories of the full-scale riot that followed the first bout between Riddick Bowe and Andrew Golota in 1996. Having learned invaluable lessons from that debacle, the Garden has instituted an abundance of effective safety precautions and contingency plans.

PHOTO BY MARK W. HILL

Trinidad fans turn out in force when "Tito" fights at MSG

The Garden all decked out for Hopkins-Trinidad

An overhead view of the conclusion of Lewis-Holyfield I



THE RING's office was once located at the 49th Street & Eighth Avenue Garden

when Duran, who was thought to be well past his prime, conquered Davey Moore to win the WBA junior middleweight title. Thirty years from now, they'll be talking about the night Lennox Lewis got robbed against Evander Holyfield, and the electric buzz surrounding Felix Trinidad's fights with Pernell Whitaker, William Joppy, and Bernard Hopkins.

"The Garden makes people go crazy," Hall of Fame trainer Emanuel Steward told the *New York Times* in '99. "It's the biggest crowd, the loudest fans, and all that electricity makes everyone go cuckoo."

The lure of fighting in the cavernous arena means something different to everyone, but something equally important to all. Every boxer who competed there waxes poetically about the experience, while everyone who hasn't speaks longingly about wanting to. For every fan who has ever attended a fight there, it is an experience they will not soon forget. When once asked how important it was to fight at the Garden, Holyfield looked at his inquisitor with disbelief. "The Garden is the Garden," he said emphatically. ■

CAMERA CLICKS

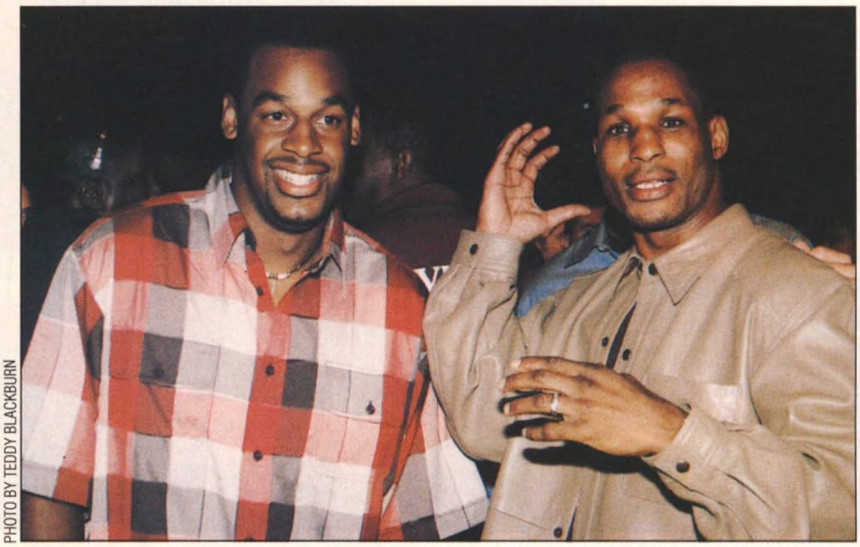


PHOTO BY TEDDY BLACKBURN

Two Philadelphia guys who know how to throw the bomb, Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb and undisputed middleweight king Bernard Hopkins, talk technique at a recent fight card at the First Union Center in Philly. Based on his form here, it's hard to say how good of a passer Hopkins would be, but we bet he could be a tough running back, especially if he can get away with using his left jab to stiff-arm defenders.

PHOTO BY TEDDY BLACKBURN

Boxing's version of The Three Tenors, Hasim "Pavarotti" Rahman, Roberto "Domingo" Duran, and Vito "Carreras" Antuofermo, belt out some melodies at Madison Square Garden on September 29. When chants of "Tito! Tito!" weren't quite enough to drown out the warbling warriors, a changeover to chants of "No mas!" did the trick.

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENHEIN

Yes, there are a lot of countries out there whose citizens hate the U.S.A., but Thailand apparently isn't one of them. Junior featherweight contender Ratanachai Vorapin draped himself in Old Glory before and after his upset win over Danny Romero at Madison Square Garden on September 29, a nice reminder that America has allies all over the globe.

PHOTO BY TOM McDONOUGH

The fighters get to sit on a stool between rounds, so why not the referee? Veteran third man Frank Cappuccino flashes his fighting form while grabbing a seat during a break in the action.

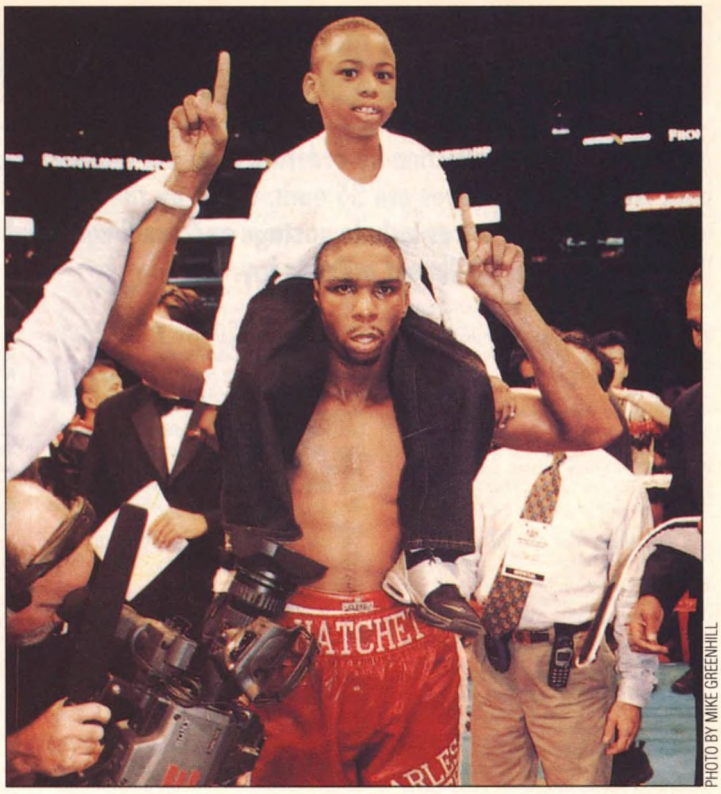


PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

To the victor goes ... the responsibility of being Daddy immediately after the fight is over. Super middleweight contender Charles Brewer, fresh off an impressive win over Fernando Zuniga, had to give his son, Charles Jr., a ride around the ring on his shoulders right after the decision was announced.

PHOTO BY GEORGE TAHINOS

Many fighters employ a "peek-a-boo" style when fighting, but Duva Boxing CEO Dino Duva utilizes the "peek-a-boo" style when being interviewed. Dino, his father Lou, and his sister Donna were all the subjects of a revealing interview that will appear in the April 2002 issue of THE RING's sister magazine, KO.

PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

"I wonder if this can knock me out ... " Slumping heavyweight Michael Grant's chin should be safe against this simple tape recorder; it's foot-in-mouth guys like Floyd Mayweather Sr. or Anthony Mundine who have to be careful around these sort of devices.

NOSTALGIA CORNER

What's wrong with this picture? Yes, that is Jack Dempsey on the right, re-enacting his pose in the fight in which he took the heavyweight title from Jess Willard, but the role of Willard is played here by a different ex-champ and former Dempsey victim, Jack Sharkey. Also missing from this re-enactment are gloves around either fighter's fists, making it very difficult to conceal any plaster of paris.

Back Issues of

Add to your RING collection by ordering from our limited supply of back issues. Single issues are $5 each. Order by the year and save up to 30%. Listed prices include postage and handling. Supplies are limited. To assure fulfillment order today.

March 1982 (100-Page Special): Sanchez & Leonard: Fighters Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awrds, Chandler gatefold, 1981 in review, boxing calendar, powers-that-be.

Feb. 1983: Michael Dokes: Tainted Champion? Plus: Howard Cosell, Ray Mancini, Bum of the Month Club, Chacon-Limon.

March 1983 (108-Page Special): Larry Holmes—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Donald Curry, Milton McCrory, Fight, Upset, Comeback, and Prospect of the Year.

April 1983: Randall "Tex" Cobb: Not Just Another Pretty Face. Plus: Hector Camacho, Boxing Writer's Hall of Fame (Monzon, Foster, Burley), second generation fighters, Stanley Ketchel.

May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

June 1983: What Now For Ray Mancini? Plus: Lupe Pintor, Paddy Flood, Bonecrusher Smith, Charlie Brown, Frazier-Broad, Chang-Zapata, Holmes-Teofilo Stevenson, Tony Ayala, Jersey Joe Walcott.

Aug. 1983: Roberto Duran: One "Mas" Time. Plus: Larry Holmes, Colin Jones, Jimmy Montoya, Alexis Arguello, Billy Petrolle, Duran-Moore, Frazier-Bugner, Resto-Collins, Escalera-Hatcher.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: Olympic Special: Mark Breland Leads A Strong Squad. Plus: Leonard-Howard, Davila-Sanchez, Bonecrusher-Bruno, Bramble-Mancini, Hatcher-Bumphus, Garza-Orozco.

Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Marvib Hagler, Roberto Duran, Rosario-Davis, Pryor-Furlano.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, James Broad, Pinklon Thomas, Julian Jackson.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

March 1985: Thomas Hearns—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Annual ratings, Fight, Upset, Round, Comeback, and Prospect of the Year.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Curry-McCrory, Kenny Lane, Vincent Pettway, *Rocky IV*.

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook The Boxing World. Rosario-Bramble & Honeyghan-Curry. Plus: Butch Lewis interview, Buster Drayton, Hector Camacho, Jake LaMotta.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: Carlos Monzon, Mike Tyson, Leonard-Duran, Daniel Zaragoza, Nunn-Barkley, Whitaker-Ramirez, George Foreman (color).

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman. Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Bruce Seldon, best chins, Sullivan-Kilrain (color), Azumah Nelson, LaStarza.

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV—Now You'll Pay! Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison in *Rocky V*, Reggie Tuur, Chiquita Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis.

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ, But ... Plus: Dempsey-Firpo, Charles Murray, Khaosai Galaxy, Nunn-Curry, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Tyson-Stewart, James Leija, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, Moore-Bassey.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 worst champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache.

May 1992: James Toney—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Myung Woo Yuh, Khaosai Galaxy, Rocky Graziano, Billy Soose, Roy Jones, James Warring, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: What Now? Boxing Without Mike Tyson. Plus: Buck Smith, Liston-Foreman, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder, Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Benny Lynch, Tony DeMarco, Tyson centerfold (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerardo Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Morrison-Hipp, Canizales-Chandler, Chavez-Camacho preview, Australia Best of Nation, Tyson speaks from prison, Corbett-Sullivan (color), Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown.

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Mons East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

May 1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title: Is He Good Enough *Now?* Plus: Carbajal-Gonzales preview, Lennox Lewis, THE RING Poll, Freddie Pendleton.

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Nov. 1993: Julio Cesar Chavez: He Crushed Haugen ... He Annihilated Alli ... Is Pernell Whitaker Next! Plus: Marvin Hagler, Evander Holyfield, John-John Molina, Madison Square Garden, bizarre training methods.

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

May 1994: Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time. Plus: Virgil Hill & Orlando Canizales, Kostya Tszyu, James Toney, What If: Dempsey vs. Wills.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

June 1995: (92-Page Special): Foreman Frowns Upon The Age Gap: "I Don't Think Tyson Should Fight Anyone But Me." Plus: Least deserving heavyweight challengers, Carlos Monzon, Kostya Tszyu.

July 1995: Pernell Whitaker: *The Ring* Makes "Pound-For-Pound" An Official Title. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Ike Quartey, Benn-McClellan, TV prospects, Hector Acero-Sanchez, Harry Matthews, What If ... Robinson-Burley.

Oct. 1995 (92-Page Special): Mismatch? Don't Tell Peter McNeeley! Plus: Fights we'd like to see, Jo-el Scott, Bronco McKart, when stop fights?

Dec. 1995: Mike Tyson (vs. Peter McNeeley): The Beast Is Yet To Come. Plus: Morrison-Lewis preview, Naseem Hamed, Chiquita Gonzalez, Gaspar Ortega, 10 best chins.

Winter 1995 (92-Page Special): Buster Mathis Jr.: "Mike Tyson, You Got A Fight Comin' On." Plus: Holyfield-Bowe III preview, Wayne McCullough, Jesse James Hughes, Norris-Vaden preview, *The Ring* Insiders' Poll, What If ... Moore-Ayala Jr.

Jan. 1996: King Bruno! A Hero Always ... A Winner At Last. Plus: Julio Cesar Chavez, Oscar De La Hoya, Chris Eubank, Eddie Perkins, who's hot/who's not.

Feb. 1996: Bowe's The Man (For Now), But Is He Man Enough For Tyson? Also: Lennox Lewis, Hamed-Barrera, Paul Banke, Vince Phillips, boxing on Madison Ave., What If ... Leonard-Pryor.

May 1996: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Frankie Randall, Tim Witherspoon, Roy Jones, Bernard Hopkins.

Sept. 1996: Lennox Lewis: Tough Enough For Tyson? Plus: Lewis-Mercer, Olympic team, Pernell Whitaker, Mark Johnson, Rocky, Scrapiron Johnson, heavyweight hopefuls.

Nov. 1996: Pole-Axed! Low Blows, Sinking Bowe, Ugly Show. Plus: Bowe-Golota I, Blinky Palermo, exciting fighters, Winky Wright, Joe Brown.

Dec. 1996: Our Spin On Roy Jones. Plus: heavyweight division, Olympic recap, Luis Rodriguez, Puerto Rican fighters, Danny Hodge, Saad Muhammad.

Jan. 1997: Riddick's Bowe's Promise: "This Time I'm Whipping Golota's Ass!" Plus: David Reid, Pernell Whitaker, Dick Tiger, Juan LaPorte.

May 1997: De La Hoya-Whitaker: Can "Sweet Pea" Stop Oscar's March To Greatness? Plus: Fitzsimmons-Corbett, Junior Jones, Phillip Holiday, Don King, Zaragoza-McCullough.

June 1997 (Special Collector's Issue): Holyfield-Tyson II: What It Means For Now ... And Forever. Plus: Holyfield-Tyson fight poster, Naseem Hamed, computer unification, Sayers-Heenan, state of the game.

July 1997: Leonard: There Wasn't Even A Ray Of Hope. Plus: Felix Trinidad, David Reid, Willie deWit & Shawn O'Sullivan, THE RING's 75th anniversary, Moore-Durelle I.

Oct. 1997: Bang! Naseem Hamed Takes Aim At America. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Phillips-Tszyu, Saman Sorjaturong, Bobby Dykes.

Nov. 1997: Is Mike Tyson Finished? Plus: Ike Ibeabuchi, De La Hoya-Camacho preview, Frankie Conley, Hall of Fame, gloves,

Holiday 1997: Roy Jones: When He's Motivated, He's Unstoppable—Got That, Evander? Plus: Julio Cesar Green, Sugar Shane Mosley, boxers' day jobs, Tyson's mentor, Kid Lavigne.

Jan. 1998: Give This Man His Due! If You Can't Respect Oscar ... You Can't Respect Anyone! Plus: Sanchez-Mayweather, Morales-Zaragoza, Lucia Rijker, Marvin Johnson, characters.

Feb. 1998: Welter-Skelter! The Hottest Division In Boxing. Plus: Lewis-Golota, Olympic update, Art Shires, boxing I.Q.

March 1998 (92-Page Special): Into The Millennium With The Real Deal: THE RING's Timeline For Evander Holyfield. Plus: Hernandez-Hernandez, Briggs-Foreman, 10 champs recall "The Day I Won The Title," Johnny Thompson.

April 1998: Evander Holyfield: THE RING's Fighter Of The Year (Again!). Plus: Yory Boy Campas, Mullings-Norris, Pinkey Mitchell, Holyfield Q & A, Hamed-Kelley, Oscar De La Hoya.

May 1998: Wrestling With His Reinstatement: Is Tyson Biting The Hand That Feeds Him? Plus: Lewis-Briggs preview, Michael Grant, Manfredy-Gatti, Ski Goldstein, Dan Donnelly.

June 1998 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Tyson-King, David Reid, Bernard Hopkins, Ken Norton.

July 1998: Holyfield ... Tapia ... Hamed ... Jones ... Trinidad ... De La Hoya: Who Will Be The First To Fall? Plus: Magic Johnson, Chavez-Gonzalez & Lopez-Alvarez, underappreciated boxers.

Aug. 1998: Lennox Lewis: No Holyfield, No Glory. Plus: Felix Trinidad, Pat & Mike McMurtry, Chris Byrd, unbreakable records, contenders & pretenders.

Sept. 1998 (92-Page Special): This Man's Not Unbeatable! Five Top Trainers Reveal How To Solve The Hamed Puzzle. Plus: John Tate, Freddie Norwood, Andrew Golota, Roy Jones, 12 greatest finishes.

Oct. 1998: Really Hard Punch ... Really Soft Lips: Oscar Makes Legs Quiver In And Out Of The Ring. Plus: Hector Camacho Jr., Mayweather-Hernandez preview, *Tuesday Night Fights.*

Jan. 1999: Sugar Shane Mosley: The Sweet Tradition Continues. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Julio Cesar Chavez, Erik Morales, Ray "Windmill" White.

Feb. 1999: 1999! It's Gonna Be A Great Year For Boxing. Plus: Mike Tyson, Foreman-Holmes, David Reid, Eric Morel, Richie Mitchell, quitters.

March 1999: De La Hoya vs. Quartey: Does Bazooka Have The Weapons To Shoot Down Oscar? Plus: Sugar Shane Mosley, Lopez-Alvarez II, Roy Jones, Coley Wallace.

April 1999 (92-Page Special): Fighter Of The Year: Floyd Mayweather Jr.: "He's So Good, It's Scary!" Plus: Fernando Vargas, James Page, Luisito Espinosa, Robinson-Gatti II, Archie Moore, Carlos Oritz, 1998 diary.

May 1999: Is It All Over For Tyson? Plus: Terry Norris, Vinny Pazienza, Jesus Pimental, stoppages, mandatories.

June 1999: The Fans Have Spoken: Results Of *The Ring* Readers' Poll. Plus: Michael Grant, De La Hoya-Quartey, Antwun Echols, Ted Lowry.

July 1999 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Holyfield-Lewis, Felix Trinidad, Stevie Johnston, Emile Griffith, Phil Zwick.

Aug. 1999: Candidates For Greatness: Can Anyone Fill The Heavyweight Void? Plus: Tim Austin, Naseem Hamed, Oscar De La Hoya, Max Scmheling, Holyfield-Lewis.

Sept. 1999: Taking Stock In The Fight Game: Who's Hot, Who's Not. Plus: Tony Ayala, Keith Holmes, Denny & Phil Moyer, scoring.

Oct. 1999 (92-Page Special): Felix & Oscar Go To War! Who's Going To Prevail In The Welter Shootout? Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Harry Simon, Omar Sheika, Al Andrews, 20 greatest fighters of 20th century.

Dec. 1999: Insiders' Analysis: Can Roy Jones Chop Down The Best Heavyweights? Plus: Ike Ibeabuchi, David Reid, David Tua, Carmen Basilio, Johnny Summerlin.

Holiday 1999 (92-Page Special): Heavyweight Showdowns! Holyfield vs. Lewis II, Grant vs. Golota. Plus: Francois Botha, Arturo Gatti, Michael Carbajal, Rocky Marciano, Lou Filippo.

Jan. 2000: What Does Trinidad's Victory Over Oscar Mean? Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Paul Spadafora, Ralph Dupas, boxing media.

Feb. 2000: Who Is Roy Jones? A Revealing Look At Boxing's Pound-For-Pound Best. Plus: Tyson-Norris, Matty McCue, tactical blunders, best fights of the '90s.

March 2000: Lennox Lewis: The Champ For The Millennium ... Or Just For The Moment? Plus: Oleg Maskaev, Main Events, Derrick Jefferson, Jerry Buss, IBF scandal.

April 2000 (92-Page Special): Paulie Ayala—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Grant-Golota, Stephan Johnson, Gaspar Ortega, Kitten Hayward, writers' favorite fights.

May 2000: Lennox Lewis Will Quit ... Or Get Knocked Out, By Michael Grant. Plus: Roy Jones, Quartey-Vargas preview, Garth Panter, best chins, boxing movies.

June 2000: The Honors Keep Coming! Lenox Lewis Receives The Undisputed *Ring* Belt. Plus: Roy Jones, Vernon Forrest, Teddy Atlas, Mike Tyson, Don Fullmer.

July 2000 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Felix Trinidad, Zab Judah, Oscar De La Hoya, Barrera-Morales, Ken Buchanan, Beau Jack, Eric Bottjer.

Aug. 2000: Hamed! And The Men Who Want To Kick His Naz! Plus: David Reid, James Prince, Anthony Fletcher, Micky Ward, final beatings, white hopes.

Sept. 2000: A New Look At Lennox Lewis: Is He An All-Time Great? Plus: Winky Wright, Michael Moorer, De La Hoya & Vargas, Eddie McGoorty.

Oct. 2000 (92-Page Special): Move Up Or Shut Up! We're Sick Of Roy Jones' Heavyweight Tease. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Tapia & Romero, Hasim Rahman, Dwight Qawi, Al Palzer, fight films, best refs.

(ALL-COLOR BEGINNING WITH THE DECEMBER 2000 ISSUE)

Dec. 2000: The Hell With Tyson—Tua Is The Man Who Could Beat Lewis. Plus: Mike Tyson, Felix Trinidad, Wladimir Klitschko, Trilla in Manila, U.S. vs. World, Toxey Hall.

Jan. 2001 (108-Page Extra): Trinidad's Destiny: Jones Is On His Mind ... But Vargas Is In His Face! Plus: Naseem Hamed, Tszyu-Judah, Evander Holyfield, Willie Bean, 20 greatest middleweights.

Feb. 2001: It's Not Over For Oscar: *The Ring's* Five-Step Recovery Plan. Plus: Bob Arum, Dingaan Thobela, Hernandez brothers, U.S. Olympic team, future pound-for-pounders.

March 2001 (108-Page Extra): Tyson! Forget About Retirement ... A Title Shot Awaits! Plus: Ayala-Tapia II, Audley Harrison, Chris Byrd, Kirk Johnson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Boone Kirkman, 12 most exciting rounds.

April 2001: A New Beginning ... A New Middle: Felix Trinidad Is Ready To Conquer Another Division! Plus: Shane Mosley, Lennox Lewis, Paul Andrews, boxing business.

May 2001 (108-Page Extra): Felix Trinidad—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, Barrera-Hamed preview, Bernard Hopkins, Joey Archer.

June 2001: Pretty Boy Floyd: Superstar Or Superbrat? Plus: Lewis vs. greats, 2000 Olympians, Henry Hall, rematches we'd like to see.

July 2001 (108-Page Extra): The State Of The Game. Plus: Zab Judah, John Ruiz, Andrew Lewis, Mark Johnson, British boxing.

Aug. 2001: Rocking The World! What Rahman's Victory Means To Boxing. Plus: Barrera-Hamed, Oscar De La Hoya, Mount Whitaker, *Friday Night Fights.*

Sept. 2001 (108-Page Extra): Exclusive Ring Interview—Hasim Rahman: "Nobody's Taking My Titles!" Plus: 20 all-time greatest lightweights, Pat Valentino, Hopkins & King, Jones & Arum.

Oct. 2001: Trinidad vs. Hopkins: Middleweight Unification Superfight Analysis & Predictions. Plus: Emanuel Steward, Joe Calzaghe, Ali's opponents, Rahman & King.

Nov. 2001 (108-Page Extra): *The Ring* 100: Ranking The Best Fighters In The World. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Jesus Chavez, Hall of Fame (Sugar Ramos, Ismael Laguna), Luther Rawlings, 15-rounders.

Dec. 2001: The Rock Promises Another Shock! "I'm Gonna Knock Lennox Out Again!" Plus: David Reid, Jones-Gonzalez, McCline-Grant, Jackie Graves, ring deaths.

Jan. 2002 (108-Page Extra): Oscar Feeds His Critics: Did He Chicken Out Against Vargas? Plus: Vladimir Klitschko, Chris Byrd, 20 greatest featherweights, "Caveman" Bob Moha.

Feb. 2002: How I Shocked The World, By Bernard Hopkins. Plus: Marco Antonio Barrera, Fernando Vargas, Francisco Bojado, boxers and national crises.

☐ Mar/82	☐ Dec/85	☐ Sep/88	☐ Oct/91	☐ Jan/95	☐ May/98	☐ Jul/00
	All 10 $37	☐ Oct/88	☐ Dec/91	☐ May/95	☐ Jun/98	☐ Aug/00
☐ Feb/83		☐ Nov/88	**All 8 $31**	☐ Jun/95	☐ Jul/98	☐ Sep/00
☐ Mar/83	☐ Jan/86	**All 7 $28**		☐ Jul/95	☐ Aug/98	☐ Oct/00
☐ Apr/83	☐ Feb/86		☐ Jan/92	☐ Oct/95	☐ Sep/98	☐ Dec/00
☐ May/83	☐ Mar/86	☐ Jan/89	☐ May/92	☐ Dec/95	☐ Oct/98	**All 11 $40**
☐ Jun/83	☐ Apr/86	☐ Feb/89	☐ Jun/92	☐ Wint/95	☐ Nov/98	
☐ Aug/83	☐ May/86	☐ Mar/89	☐ Jul/92	**All 7 $28**	**All 11 $40**	☐ Jan/01
☐ Nov/83	☐ Jun/86	☐ May/89	☐ Sep/92			☐ Feb/01
All 7 $28	☐ Jul/86	**All 4 $18**	☐ Oct/92	☐ Jan/96	☐ Jan/99	☐ Mar/01
	☐ Aug/86	☐ Jan/90	☐ Nov/92	☐ Feb/96	☐ Feb/99	☐ Apr/01
☐ Feb/84	☐ Sep/86	☐ Feb/90	**All 7 $28**	☐ May/96	☐ Mar/99	☐ May/01
☐ Jun/84	☐ Dec/86	☐ Mar/90		☐ Sep/96	☐ Apr/99	☐ Jun/01
☐ Jul/84	**All 10 $37**	☐ Apr/90	☐ Feb/93	☐ Nov/96	☐ May/99	☐ Jul/01
☐ Aug/84		☐ May/90	☐ Mar/93	☐ Dec/96	☐ Jun/99	☐ Aug/01
☐ Sep/84	☐ Apr/87	☐ Jun/90	☐ Apr/93	**All 6 $25**	☐ Jul/99	☐ Sep/01
☐ Oct/84	☐ May/87	☐ Jul/90	☐ May/93		☐ Aug/99	☐ Oct/01
☐ Dec/84	☐ Jun/87	☐ Aug/90	☐ Aug/93	☐ Jan/97	☐ Sep/99	☐ Nov/01
All 7 $28	☐ Jul/87	☐ Oct/90	☐ Nov/93	☐ May/97	☐ Oct/99	☐ Dec/01
	☐ Aug/87	☐ Nov/90	**All 6 $25**	☐ Jun/97	☐ Dec/99	**All 12 $43**
☐ Jan/85	☐ Sep/87	☐ Dec/90		☐ Jul/97	☐ Hol/99	
☐ Feb/85	☐ Nov/87	**All 11 $40**		☐ Oct/97	**All 12 $43**	☐ Jan/02
☐ Mar/85	☐ Dec/87		☐ Apr/94	☐ Nov/97		☐ Feb/02
☐ Apr/85	**All 8 $31**	☐ Jan/91	☐ May/94	**All 6 $25**	☐ Jan/00	
☐ May/85		☐ Mar/91	☐ Aug/94		☐ Feb/00	
☐ Jun/85	☐ Jan/88	☐ Apr/91	☐ Oct/94	☐ Jan/98	☐ Mar/00	
☐ Aug/85	☐ Feb/88	☐ Jun/91	☐ Dec/94	☐ Feb/98	☐ Apr/00	
☐ Oct/85	☐ Apr/88	☐ Jul/91	**All 5 $22**	☐ Mar/98	☐ May/00	
☐ Nov/85	☐ May/88	☐ Aug/91		☐ Apr/98	☐ Jun/00	

In case of sellout, indicate two substitute choices: _____ _____

Please send me the back issues I have checked off. I have enclosed $5 for each issue as payment in full or provided my credit card number to charge my purchase ($20 minimum). Send To:

LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA #_____

☐ MasterCard #_____

Expiration Date: __/__ MO/YR

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent via surface mail, and $3.00 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

5777/11-01

Can Tyson Do To A Champ What He Did To Nielsen?

FAT CHANCE!

PHOTOS BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Tyson ripped into Nielsen with a savage attack that was reminiscent of the Iron Mike of a decade ago. But did beating up a light-punching fat guy who has never beaten a legitimate contender really signify that Tyson is ready to recapture the heavyweight crown?

By Nigel Collins

If it wasn't so pitiful, it would have been funny. It took Mike Tyson six rounds to dispose of a fat guy who likens himself to a character out of a Monty Python movie—and it was still Tyson's best performance in years!

But what's even more deplorable is that it really doesn't matter anymore whether or not Tyson can fight. What's

important as far as the boxing industry is concerned is that Tyson's TKO of hapless Brian Nielsen helped prop up an aging cash cow sufficiently enough to milk another monster payday. And if you don't think that Tyson can still do big numbers, you're not paying attention.

We all know that Tyson isn't what he used to be, not even at the box office. But make no mistake about it, he's still a huge attraction. His mismatch with Nielsen drew more than 20,000 fans to Copenhagen's Parken Stadium, and an additional 75,000 Danish homes purchased the regional pay-per-view. But those figures are nothing compared to the 1.8 million viewers who watched Showtime's same-day, tape-delayed broadcast in the United States. If even half that number buys the pay-per-view of Tyson's next title challenge, it will be the largest PPV bonanza since Trinidad-De La Hoya in 1999. And that's a conservative estimate.

"The biggest heavyweight fight in the world right now is one which includes Mike Tyson," said Showtime boxing boss Jay Larkin, whose network has exclusive rights to broadcast Tyson's fights. "Lennox Lewis against Rahman is meaningless. Holyfield-Ruiz? Meaningless. Either Klitschko brother in any fight other than one with Tyson? Meaningless."

While we wouldn't go quite so far as Larkin—from a boxing standpoint, all of the fights he pooh-poohed mean something—he's right when it comes to luring the crossover fans required to turn any PPV fight into a blockbuster. The hardcore boxing fans who follow the sport closely enough to understand that Tyson is only a fragment of what he once was are going to tune in anyway. Most likely, if you're reading this, you're one of them. It's the fringe fans, the sort who watch maybe one or two big fights a year, that make the difference between financial success and failure.

The iron grip with which Tyson still holds the general public's attention is remarkable, but not unique. Millions continued to watch Muhammad Ali's fights long after The Greatest had passed his prime. But Ali had achieved icon status by then and had already transcended boxing to a large degree. And while it's virtually impossible to imagine Tyson ever becoming the goodwill ambassador to the world that Ali is today, in his own bizarre way, Tyson is an inspiration to a certain segment of the population and an enduring fascination to others.

Many folks at the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder see Tyson as one of their own, a classic underdog who bucked the system and still became rich and famous beyond his wildest dreams. So what if he's run afoul of the law from time to time? The criminal-justice system is stacked against the poor anyway.

But there's also an appeal that reaches across social boundaries. It starts with Tyson's savage fighting style, which

PHOTOS BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Despite the fact he's been incarcerated several times and is nowhere near the fighter he used to be, Tyson still has plenty of fans, including this group of happy-looking kids in Copenhagen. For his part, Tyson has always had a soft spot for children.

strikes a primordial chord deep within most of us, but it doesn't end there. The freak show, you-never-know-what-he'll-do-next aspect has become a substantial part of his attraction, frequently overshadowing anything he does in a boxing ring. But regardless of why people still care, the bottom line is that a significant number are willing to pay for the privilege of seeing him.

Even so, Tyson's still impressive fan base can't help him once the bell rings, and if he's going to regain the heavyweight title, he'll have to do it with the power of his fist, not his box office prowess. So let's look a little closer at the Nielsen fight and see what, if anything, such a shameful exercise tells us about Tyson's chances of becoming heavyweight champion again.

Much has been made of the fact that Tyson weighed a career-high 239 pounds. Some interpreted that as a sign of sloth, figuring that Tyson knew Nielsen didn't have a prayer and prepared accordingly. Tyson and his trainer, Tommy Brooks, countered that argument by claiming that they wanted to bulk up because the 6'3" Nielsen, who came in at 259½, was such a large man.

There's probably a bit of truth in both points of view, but another ingredient was also involved. Originally, Tyson, genuinely eager to get back in action after fights with David Izon and Hasim Rahman fell through, trained diligently for Nielsen. But he threw his back out, which forced a postponement, and never completely regained the form he displayed before the injury.

Tyson has candidly admitted that it's much tougher now, at age 35, to grind himself into top condition. But even with the excess baggage, most of which he appeared to be carrying in his rump, Tyson looked cut, and had enough energy to fight six rounds (the most he's gone since the first fight with Evander Holyfield in 1996) at a tolerably brisk pace.

It goes without saying that Tyson enthusiasts should resist putting too much stock in his performance against Nielsen. To be fair, it was encouraging to see him rip into the Dane with a two-handed body assault in the opening round, and it was undoubtedly a good thing to get six rounds of work under his belt after such a long layoff. But that's about as generous as you can be.

All Nielsen brought to the party, besides his faithful Danish following, was a big heart and a sturdy chin. He was embarrassingly obese, and with scandalous slabs of suet sagging down from his chest and midsection, he looked suspiciously like a lot of the truck drivers and barroom brawlers dredged up for Butterbean to fight. The few punches he actually threw

MORE FARCE THAN FIGHT

During the opening moments of the first round, it almost seemed as if we were watching prime-time Mike Tyson. He rumbled out of his corner with a snarl on his lips, backed his foe against the ropes, and immediately launched a two-fisted body blitz. As his red gloves slammed into his opponent's sides, it sounded like somebody repeatedly slamming a plank into a pool of water.

Whap! Whap! Whap!

But the moment you looked at the other guy, it was clear that it was 2001, after all, not 1986. And, yes, those were Brian Nielsen's flabby flanks Tyson was tenderizing. The same Brian Nielsen who was knocked out by Dickie Ryan, for cripes sake! This wasn't really a professional prize fight; it was a turkey shoot with Nielsen in the unenviable role of the fattened-for-market gobbler.

Tyson slacked off a bit in the second, perhaps worried about his gas after such a fast-paced opener. Even so, he deliv-

PHOTO BY JOHN GICHIGI/ALLSPORT

A Tyson combination sends Nielsen flying

were of the patty-cake variety, and Nielsen's suggestion that he was "hurting" Tyson with some of his blows was absurd.

Tyson did show that he can still throw punches with "murderous intentions," and the four-punch combination that dropped Nielsen in the third round was reminiscent of vintage Iron Mike. But it's no big deal to put together impressive punches against a large, slow-moving target, especially when you know there won't be anything remotely resembling a harmful punch coming back at you. There was little dignity in it for either of them.

After the fight was stopped, manager Shelly Finkel could be heard in the ring telling Tyson how great he'd looked. Tyson seemed dubious of the flattery, but did allow that he thought he'd worked the body well. To his credit, Tyson gave the media an objective evaluation of his performance. There would be no I-

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Even Tyson seems to be having a hard time taking Nielsen seriously as they pose for the media during the prefight hype. Afterward, Tyson said he was surprised how tough the Danish favorite actually was.

ered some hard blows and seemed to have built up a full head of steam by the start of the third. Late in the round, Tyson's onslaught reached its zenith when he exploded with a pair of left-right combinations to the head. The force of the blows was such that Nielsen was lifted off his feet and catapulted into the ropes, where he bounced off and onto the floor. Had the ropes not been there, he might have landed in the third row. It was truly a Tyson-esque knockdown, with the sort of cartoon quality going for it that originally made Tyson's fights so compelling.

Nielsen, who showed the courage of his Viking heritage if nothing else, struggled up inside of referee Steve Smoger's count and braced himself for the worst. The man who was optimistically ushered into the ring to the sound of "Look On The Bright Side Of Life" from the Monty Python movie *Life Of Brian*, was bleeding from a cut over his left eye and was obviously having trouble seeing any side of life out of the eye, which was leaking blood and swelling. But when one of Tyson's followup blows strayed slightly below the belt, Nielsen hammed it up and was granted a timeout that gave him the respite he needed to survive the round.

Tyson's onslaught lessened in the fourth and fifth, and he no longer resembled the Tyson of old. By then, he looked more like a laborer putting in a hard day's work. But it was still all one-way traffic, and Nielsen's eye grew progressively worse with every punch Tyson landed.

The large crowd cheered whenever the local hero even threatened to throw a punch, but his feeble efforts were pathetic, and after being rocked by a hard right in the sixth, Nielsen, a misleading 62-2 (42), quit on his stool, complaining of blurred vision. Under Danish rules, it goes into the record book as a TKO win for Tyson, one second into the seventh round.

Perhaps the most revealing part came afterward, when Tyson, 49-3 (43) with 2 no-contests, said, "He put on a heck of a fight. I had no idea he was that tough. I didn't have an easy night."

For Tyson's sake, let's hope he was just trying to be polite, because if he really thought it was a tough fight, imagine how he's going to feel when he gets inside the ring with the heavyweight champion of the world.

(10-13-01)

—NC

wanna-eat-your-children rant this time.

"I felt pretty good, but I felt rusty and a little unsure," said Tyson. "When I fight for the title, I'll probably have to train a little harder. Probably two more fights, and I will be ready for the championship."

Sounds reasonable, but those two more fights, while they make excellent sense from a boxing standpoint and would undoubtedly give Tyson a better shot at winning, could be a problem.

"The calendar is working against two fights," said Larkin. "Mike is the mandatory and he'll have to be ready when it comes."

That will probably be sometime in the first quarter of 2002, which gives Tyson time to squeeze in one more tuneup, providing it's put together in a timely fashion. As we went to press, there was a lot of talk about a January fight with Ray Mercer, which would certainly go against the sort of cautious matchmaking that has kept Tyson unbeaten since the second Holyfield fight. Even at age 40, Mercer is a far tougher proposition than any of Tyson's other comeback victims. But regardless of whom Tyson fights (if anybody) between now and challenging for the title, there are

risks involved. Even the easiest of opponents could butt open a cut.

So let's assume, for discussion's sake, that the only boxing Tyson will do before fighting the winner of Hasim Rahman-Lennox Lewis II will come in the gym. Forget what Tyson weighed for Nielsen, he's not going to blow his last shot at redemption by not training. Deep down inside, he's retained a residue of the fighting pride and sense of history that Cus D'Amato installed in him, and knows he's going to have to be at his best if he's going to have any chance of winning.

Then there's always money. Another crushing defeat like the ones he suffered against Buster Douglas and Holyfield would knock down Tyson's tax bracket a notch or two and place him precariously close to steppingstone status. When you get right down to it, motivation will be the least of his worries.

The intimidation factor that Tyson has used to such great advantage throughout his career is now principally an empty threat, though it's still effective against the sort of timid opposition he has been facing since the second Holyfield fight. But it's no longer much of a factor at the championship level. Still, even though top-notch heavyweights no longer fear Tyson for what he can do with his fists, even the very best worry about what he might do if he freaks out again. Even if it means victory via disqualification, nobody wants their arm broken or their ear bitten off. The intimidation factor might have faded, but the psycho factor is still going strong.

But the fundamental question we're trying to answer is whether or not Tyson is ready to be champion again, and a DQ defeat isn't going to put him back on the heavyweight throne. Only a legit victory can do that, and probably the only way he

MORE TYSON TROUBLE?

Before flying to Denmark for his fight with Brian Nielsen, Mike Tyson found himself in a familiar, albeit uncomfortable spot, as police investigated a sexual assault claim against him. As of press time, it was uncertain how this latest allegation would impact on his career.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police searched Tyson's Vegas home on September 26 after a woman made a sexual assault allegation against him. Tyson was convicted in 1992 of the rape of a beauty pageant contestant in Indiana and he has faced numerous other similar charges.

The Clark County District Attorney's office declined comment on the Tyson case because it is an ongoing investigation. Lt. Tom Monahan of the Police Sexual Assault Detail said police would have no comment until the investigation was complete.

In what looked like a scene from a movie, detectives and SWAT team members descended upon Tyson's home with a search warrant. Monahan, however, said the presence of the SWAT team is standard procedure in such cases and had nothing to do with Tyson's celebrity status. The search took more than six hours, and detectives took several boxes with them.

The home, which is next door to entertainer Wayne Newton's home in the southeast part of the city, is more than 11,000 square feet and valued at $1.36-million.

Monahan said Tyson was home for at least part of the search, though it is not clear at what point Tyson left. Monahan said Tyson was cooperative with police. Tyson professed his innocence but declined further comment.

Earlier this year, a woman in San Bernardino County, California, said Tyson raped her in Big Bear. Investigators could not find enough evidence to indict Tyson, however, and the prosecutor in the case said he didn't think he could prove Tyson guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Nevertheless, the woman, Arlene Moorman, has filed a civil suit against the ex-champion. He also faces a civil suit in Las Vegas from a former topless dancer who accused Tyson of hitting her in the chest and becoming verbally abusive.

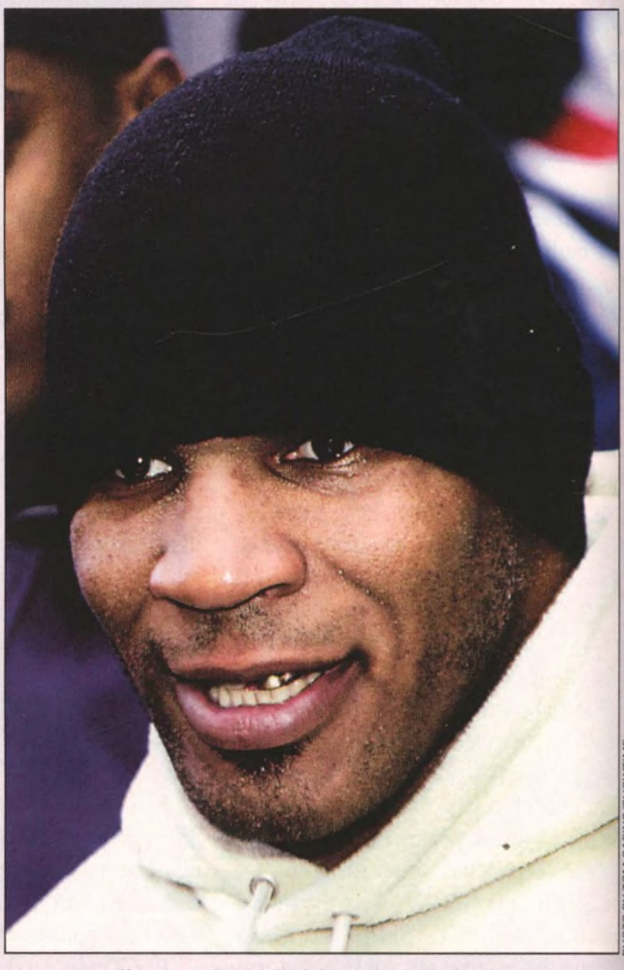


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

New sexual assault claim under investigation

While in Denmark for the Nielsen fight, Tyson told reporters, "I always manage to get into some bulls___, but I'm tired of all that crap and I want to get it all together now. I don't want to put myself in situations anymore where I can be falsely accused."

—Kevin Iole

can achieve such a feat is by knockout.

There were moments in the Nielsen fight when Tyson put combinations together, not as many as Brooks might have liked, but enough to be encouraging. True, Tyson still has the power to put most heavyweights on the floor with one punch, but if he puts his shots together on a consistent basis, his chances of landing a telling blow will be greatly increased. As simplistic as that might sound, it's still key.

Let's face it. It's been a long time since Tyson has had to handle any kind of formidable attack, and his biggest problem is going to be dealing with the punches coming in his direction. Sure, Frans Botha connected with a series of scoring punches before falling prey to an almost perfect right to the jaw, but "The White Buffalo" isn't a dangerous puncher. And the rest of Tyson's recent collection of rag-tag victims—Orlin Norris, Julius Francis, Lou Savarese, Andrew Golota, and Nielsen—didn't land a single punch of consequence between them.

PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

Tyson, pictured with a happy-looking Shelly Finkel, told the press he wanted two more bouts before fighting for the world title. But time is running out, and even one more tuneup might not be feasible.

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Tyson seems to be peeking around trainer Tommy Brooks, eager to get off his stool and fire some more punches at Nielsen. Whether Tyson really wants to fight or is just hanging around boxing for the money is crucial to his chances of defeating a top-tier opponent.

It's no secret Tyson hasn't had a serious fight in years. His sporadic career and hand-picked opposition have helped keep his bank account healthy and reminded the public that he's still lurking out there, but have done precious little for his game. How realistic is it to expect an aging, diminished Tyson to respond favorably to the prolonged give-and-take of an authentic contest?

When Tyson fights for the title, it will be like a bad acid flashback. He's suddenly going to remember what it feels like to be hit by a world-class heavyweight. Then he's going to remember what it's like to get beat up, because although Tyson might be ready for a final crack at the title, he'll never again be ready to win it.

What we've been watching for the past five years is merely the long farewell of boxing's greatest could-have-been, the protracted death throes of lost promise. Tyson's time has come and gone—and gone again. It would be delusional to expect a new dawn to replace the inevitable sunset, but then, boxing has always been full of dreamers. Why should Tyson and his lingering constituency be any different? ■

After Four Years Of Rebuilding ...

KOSTYA *ZOOMS* TO THE TOP

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Judah is about to crash to the canvas as Tszyu follows through on his devastating right hand at the end of the second round. Tszyu's overhand right is widely recognized as an awesome weapon, yet Judah carelessly held his hands at his sides and left the Russian-Australian veteran a clear opening.

By Kevin Iole

Vince Phillips leaned against a wall and grinned like a Cheshire cat. The former IBF junior welterweight champion had the look of a content man.

There seemed to be overwhelming prefight support for Zab Judah from the media and the fans prior to the 140-pound unification bout with Kostya Tszyu at the MGM Grand Garden on November 3. Phillips, the only man to have beaten Tszyu, tried to sound a word of caution. The night before the showdown, standing outside a bank of elevators at the MGM, Phillips conceded that Judah had the tools to win the fight, but he wondered if Judah could deal with Tszyu's pressure. That pressure, Phillips said, would probably make Judah wilt as the fight wore on.

"Twelve rounds is a long time in there against a guy like Kostya Tszyu," Phillips said.

As it turned out, it only took about two minutes 30 seconds for Tszyu's pressure to get to Judah. Tszyu hit Judah with a strong right in the final 30 seconds of the first round, a round otherwise dominated by Judah, and the fight was never the same after that.

Tszyu went out and took the fight from Judah in spectacular fashion, stopping him after a thunderous right hand left Judah flopping around the ring the way Trevor Berbick did down the street about 15 years earlier on the night Mike Tyson first became heavyweight champion.

"Take nothing away from Zab, because he's a great fighter," said Phillips, who stopped Tszyu in the 10th round on May 31, 1997, to win the IBF title. "But Tszyu is tough, and he's a pro. He showed you that tonight. He sure showed everybody that."

As he said it, Phillips shook his head affirmatively, one pro admiring the good work of another. And make no mistake, though the fight lasted just six minutes, Tszyu did plenty of good work.

He answered the critics who wondered whether his hands were too slow and whether his defense was, as Judah said, "like Swiss cheese—full of holes." He answered by putting on the performance of a lifetime in the fight of his lifetime. It vaulted him back into the prominence he was about to reach when he was knocked out by Phillips. Then, a win over Phillips and perhaps another win or two would have led to a fight with Oscar De La Hoya and the big paycheck that always follows bouts with "The Golden Boy."

Instead, Tszyu had to start over after the loss to Phillips. But the 32-year-old Russian-born Australian quelled any doubts about the identity of the best 140-pounder in the world with his devastation of the previously unbeaten Judah.

After the fight, Top Rank promoter Bob Arum said he was going to try to work to arrange a match between Tszyu and the star of his stable, 130-pound champion Floyd Mayweather. There was also plenty of talk about a possible match with WBC welterweight champion Shane Mosley. And, of course, Phillips mentioned that he would be willing to give Tszyu the opportunity to avenge the only blemish on his record.

Tszyu wasn't sure where he was going, only that he would take a much-needed vacation. He was the subject of plenty of criticism in the days leading up to the fight, because he avoided the media and was curt and surly the times when he did make himself available. But Tszyu said he needed to train like a demon because of the significance of the fight.

"Kostya just pushed and pushed and pushed," said his trainer, Johnny Lewis. "He never took a break, never backed off. He was in shape to go 112 rounds. He worked that hard."

He didn't need to go a fraction of that distance because of the dynamite in his hands. This was the classic match of speed vs. power, and, because 2001 had seemed to be the Year of the Boxer, most were favoring Judah.

The odds rose to 3-1 in favor of Judah, and there was never a rush of support for Tszyu. Judah himself said it would be his easiest fight. It could have been easy for

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Tszyu is more than just a one-handed fighter, and here he rakes Judah with a crisp left. "The Thunder From Down Under," as the Australian-based Tszyu calls himself, struggled in the first round, but completely controlled the action throughout the second.

Judah, just like it was for Mayweather over Diego Corrales. As it was for Marco Antonio Barrera over Naseem Hamed. And as it was for Bernard Hopkins over Felix Trinidad.

The problem is, Judah didn't have all of the tools necessary to pull off this dangerous high-wire act. He had the blazing hand and foot speed he needed, but he didn't have the chin.

He had been knocked down twice previously, against the likes of Jan Bergman and Terronn Millett. Judah dismissed them, insisting they were flukes.

"Hey, give it up," he said days before the fight. "I mean, did you see those fights? I was going in to finish a guy and I got caught. It wasn't a big thing."

Not when it's Jan Bergman throwing the punch. It's a different story, though, when it's Kostya Tszyu.

"I know I've got power in both hands and that, basically, I can knock an elephant out," Tszyu said, grinning broadly.

Judah negated the power for most of the first round, doing what he said he would do. He moved, provided Tszyu with different angles, and landed several clean shots, getting out of danger before Tszyu could respond. He stung Tszyu with two combinations, one halfway through the round that appeared to hurt him, then another that snapped Tszyu's head back with 40 seconds left. For two-plus minutes, Judah was doing everything he needed to do to repeat the runaway victories scored by Mayweather, Barrera, and Hopkins in earlier boxer vs. slugger showdowns.

But the fight changed dramatically late in the first round, when Tszyu rifled a right that clipped Judah on the cheekbone. The defending IBF titlist clearly felt that shot.

"It was very clean and I think it changed the way he fought in the second round," said Nady, the man who was closer than any other.

Tszyu had cut the distance on Judah in the second round. Judah was circling, both shoulders slumped, with his hands at his side. Tszyu was relentlessly moving forward, stalking his prey. He was making the fight and winning the round, even though for most of the round he didn't land anything cleanly.

That would change in the final 10 seconds. As the two came out of a clinch along the ropes, Judah had his arms at his

PHOTO BY MARTY MUSSATTER

Judah momentarily regains his feet after the knockdown, but he would flop to the floor again almost immediately. Referee Jay Nady called a quick, somewhat controversial stoppage, which set off an outrageous freakout from Judah.

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Tszyu's career was on the ropes following his upset 10th-round TKO loss to Vince Phillips in '97, but now he's on top again and may be headed toward a rematch with Phillips. "Cool Vince" was one observer who wasn't surprised by Tszyu's kayo of Judah.

"I've seen fighters roll around on the floor. He never gave me a chance. As big as this fight was, it should never have been stopped like that."

Whether Judah is right or wrong on that count, it doesn't excuse his actions in the ring after the fight was stopped. Judah pretended to be calm so his father/trainer, Yoel, would stop restraining him, then he walked across the ring and threateningly stuck a glove under Nady's chin. Later, he went even more overboard and tossed a stool across the ring. As of press time, the Nevada State Athletic Commission was holding Judah's $1-million purse because of his actions, and its chairman, Luther Mack, said he would consider revoking Judah's license at a disciplinary hearing.

Judah, 27-1 (21) with 1 no-contest, apologized later for shoving Nady and throwing the stool, though he wouldn't back off his contention that the stoppage was premature. Tszyu, though, was glad that Nady did what he did, because he

(Continued on page 38)

side and Tszyu whistled a right that grazed Judah's chin. Judah backed toward the corner and Tszyu pursued. Judah started to lean forward, toward Tszyu, and Tszyu responded by throwing a second right. This one hit Judah on the point of the chin and sent him down.

Judah was down for only about three seconds before getting up. In that time, Nady was moving Tszyu to a neutral corner. When Nady turned, he saw Judah stumble forward and pitch face first onto the mat. He didn't bother to finish the count—he was at four at the time—and waved the fight off and called in the ringside physician.

"I believe he was knocked momentarily unconscious and I was very concerned about second concussion syndrome," Nady said. "My only thought was to get the doctor in right away to help him out."

When Judah got up the second time, he began pleading to Nady, who tried to restrain him so the doctor could examine him. Judah, though, wanted no part of it.

"He just stopped it," Judah exclaimed. "What happens, you fall and that's it? It was an early stoppage. You can see how quickly I got my head back together and I was ready to go back again. He walked up to me and said, 'It's over.' You can't do that.

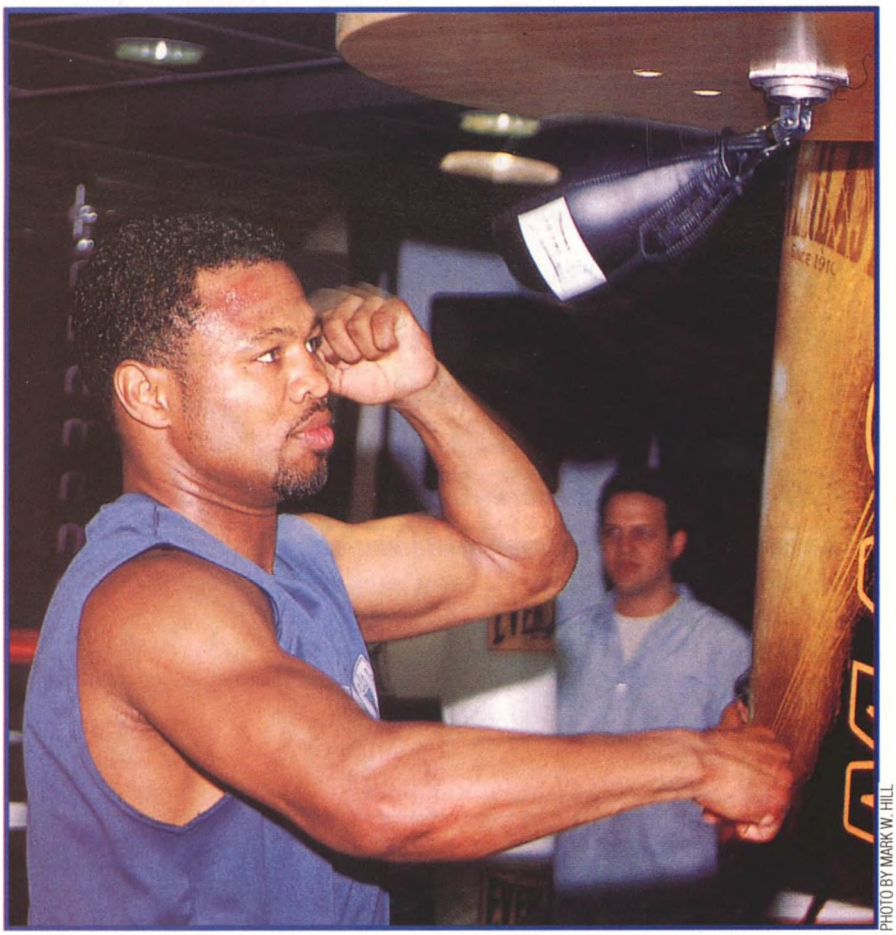


PHOTO BY MARK W. HILL

Another possible future opponent for the world's best junior welterweight is Sugar Shane Mosley, the world's best welterweight. That appealing fight would certainly fetch Tszyu a career-high payday.

THE RING & KO PRESENT

GIANT-SIZED FOLDOUT SPECIALS

Includes. . .
A LIFE-SIZE 22" X 32" EIGHT-PAGE SUPER CENTERFOLD!

Stories, Records, Fight Facts, Analyses, And More!

- TYSON vs. SPINKS
- HOLYFIELD vs. FOREMAN
- LEONARD vs. HEARNS II
- LEONARD vs. DURAN III
- MIKE TYSON & THE HEAVYWEIGHT GREATS

ONLY $5
$21.95
FOR ALL FIVE!

Send money order or make check payable to:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

The RING & KO PRESENT

Please send me the *Color Special* I've checked below. I am enclosing $5 for each one I'm ordering, or $21.95 for all five.

☐ Tyson vs. Spinks
☐ Holyfield vs. Foreman
☐ Leonard vs. Hearns II
☐ Leonard vs. Duran III
☐ Tyson & The Heavyweight Greats

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

For all orders outside the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every issue to be delivered by surface mail, or $3 for every issue to be sent air mail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

5353/09-00

Kostya Tszyu

(Continued from page 37)

didn't want to have to go out to finish an obviously badly hurt fighter.

"Look at his eyes. The referee made the right decision to stop the fight," Tszyu, 28-1-1 (23), said. "Otherwise, he would have been really, really hurt, and that is not necessary to do. We are humans and we have lives after boxing. He is a young kid and still has a future for himself."

The brightest future in the division now, however, belongs to Tszyu, just as all three major belts do. Suddenly, there are a number of appealing options for him, all of which would bring him the types of purses that have, for the most part, eluded him throughout his career.

In addition to Mayweather and Mosley, there is a potential fight with Corrales, when he is released from jail. Corrales said prior to the Mayweather fight that he would look to move up in weight, and when he is released from prison, he is likely to fight as a 140-pounder.

The one thing not likely to happen, at least not in the short term, is a rematch with Judah. Prior to the fight, a boastful Judah said he wished the fight were a winner takes all. He said he was willing to do it, but that NSAC rules prevented it. Tszyu didn't bother to react when he heard Judah say that, but it was clear later that he had, in fact, soaked in every word.

"Do you remember at the press conference you asked him questions and he said, 'Winner take all?'" Tszyu said. "I will answer the same way. It's a boomerang."

It looked like Tszyu hit Judah with a boomerang or some other heavy, blunt object by the way Judah flopped around the ring. Judah looked out of his league against Tszyu, who looked, well, like one of the 10 best fighters in the world.

"This is not for me to say, but I would like this," Tszyu said of the growing opinion that he is among boxing's pound-for-pound best. "I have worked hard enough and accomplished a lot. I don't want to say I should be there, but I hope that maybe I convinced some people that I should be there." ■

Kevin Iole covers boxing for the Las Vegas Review-Journal and is a regular contributor to this magazine.

DON'T GAMBLE ON SPORTS INVEST IN IT!

www.mariowins.com

#1 RATED HANDICAPPING SERVICE IN AMERICA, MAKE A FORTUNE ABSOLUTELY FREE!

Mario Petriano, the star of tv & radio shows nationwide brings his handicapping expertise to the public. His knowledge of the games, along with his connections with the "Wise Guys" give him the edge he needs to bury your man.

Mario's approach is a rare blend of thoroughly traditional values, styles, vision and daring. His legendary charm and independent spirit is rooted in his highly principled business practices, which is why to his clientele, he is quite simply known as "The Gentleman Sports Consultant!"

Today, Mario Petriano typifies the sense of adventure and fearless approach to wagering that marks his reputation for winning the big moves.

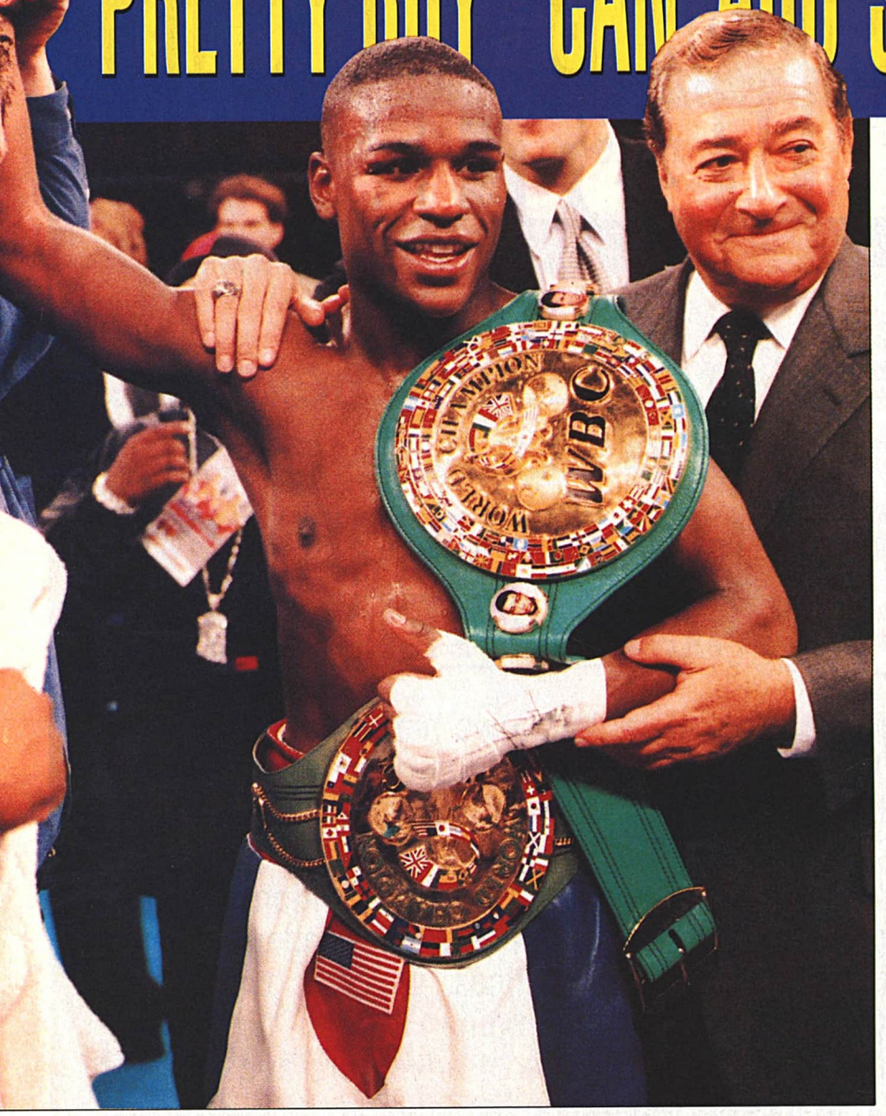
LAST SEASON A NICKEL PLAYER MADE $50,000!

DON'T WAIT, CALL NOW FOR THIS HUGE MOVE AND RECEIVE YOUR FIRST 5 PICKS ABSOLUTELY FREE!

1-800-488-4255

INNER CIRCLE CLUB
1-900-407-7700
$50 ON TAPE/MUST BE 18
1 Play A Day GUARANTEED
with 1 Month of Service

"PRETTY BOY" CAN ADD SOME POUNDS... BUT CAN HE TAKE THE POUNDING?



Movin' on up: After stopping mandatory challenger Jesus Chavez at the end of the ninth round for his eighth successful title defense at 130 pounds, Mayweather and promoter Bob Arum look toward a future for "Pretty Boy" in the lightweight division and beyond.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS FARINA

By David Mayo

You could draw a zig-zagging line from each bluish bruise, to each little lump, to each subtle scratch on Jesus Chavez' face and body. On the surface, perhaps it simply would underscore how difficult the chore of confronting Floyd Mayweather's speed and savvy is. You get in a fight with a pound-for-pound stud, and you probably come away with two things: a few hundred thousand bucks, and a face that looks like Chavez' for a few days.

Now peer closer. Are those just bumps and bruises? Or could they be by-products of a road map, a blueprint that someone might employ someday to defeat arguably the world's most well-rounded prize fighter?

That scuff mark? That's from pinning Mayweather near one corner, subtly grabbing a rope to keep him there and land a bodyshot, briefly frustrating the champion, who rendered a little lacing in retaliation. That lumpy jaw? That's the price for delivering that high hook to the temple that momentarily left Mayweather cross-eyed in mid-ring, with 20 seconds remaining in the eighth round, even as the hard-pressing Chavez was starting to wilt.

You have to take some to give some. The marks on Chavez' body showed he took plenty. But the cut over Mayweather's right eye, and the puffiness beneath it, and the rope burns on his back, showed Chavez also gave his share.

Chavez didn't have the goods to beat Mayweather. The U.S.-raised Mexican with the compelling story of teenaged robbery evolving into adulthood deportation did not possess the power, speed, or big-fight experience to defeat the accomplished champion. After nine rounds, trainer Ronnie Shields refused to let his fighter absorb any more head-snapping uppercuts, and Mayweather confirmed his plan to move up to lightweight after eight successful WBC super featherweight title defenses.

What Chavez did offer on November 10 in San Francisco was a willingness to press the fight and throw a high volume of punches. Chavez did not always seem to have a clear target in mind. And the bodyshots he took in return—further evidence of the payback for risking an offensive assault against Mayweather—contributed mightily to his demise.

That was the price for trying all-out, something not all Mayweather opponents have done. Through nine rounds, Chavez was competitive, although the fight was slipping away, and he trailed by margins of three, five, and five points. But he tried, and in so doing, gave future Mayweather opponents some things to consider.

Paul Spadafora, the IBF lightweight champion who is high on Mayweather's hit list, figures Chavez just gave him a few extra ideas. Spadafora isn't the high-pressure fighter Chavez is. He might not punch as hard as Chavez, even with five extra pounds. But in December 1999, Spadafora outsparred Mayweather for six rounds, when Mayweather was out of shape and just returning to the gym during a publicized rift with his father, HBO, and Top Rank.

Mayweather ripped into Chavez with a two-handed assault, but although he drilled his challenger with plenty of flush shots, the WBC super featherweight titlist could not put him down. What kind of effect Mayweather's punches will have on heavier opponents remains to be seen.

"Mayweather is the only reason I'm sticking around at 135," Spadafora said from his home near Pittsburgh. "I got the best of him when we sparred. It was no big deal, except for just knowing you can be in there with him. You see him on TV, you hear how good people say he is—and he's definitely a great fighter—but once you're in there with a guy, whether you're sparring him or fighting him, you know what he's got, and he knows what you've got. I can't imagine fighting him could be that much different than sparring him."

Chavez' manager, Lou Mesorana of Corpus Christi, Texas, conceded that Mayweather is one of the finest 130-pounders ever. But Mesorana maintained that Chavez also showed the way for bigger opponents in the difficult quest to unseat the 27-0 (20) Mayweather.

"Floyd only has problems with people who try to cause him problems," Mesorana said. "He likes things his way. As long as things are going his way, he's all right. But when somebody like Chavez, Reggie Sanders in his second pro fight, Emanuel Burton, Carlos Hernandez, puts pressure on him, it seems like he really doesn't like reacting to it. Yes, he's a great fighter, yes, he's got the speed, yes, he wins. But he doesn't like it if you catch him and make him fight."

Chavez did that, and Mayweather's enormous skill carried him through it. The champion hammered the body while Chavez missed with most of his energy-sapping shots. In the mid-rounds,

Although he didn't throw an overabundance of punches, Mayweather was very accurate and connected with pinpoint precision. Even better news for Mayweather was the fact that his fragile hands held up much better than they did against Carlos Hernandez last May.

Mayweather danced and jabbed. In the late rounds, he moved his attack from the rib cage to the jaw line, with a vicious two-handed array of uppercuts that ultimately ended the fight.

Perhaps in a year or two, Mayweather will have whacked out the top lightweights and proven that the Chavez fight simply demonstrates he can beat any fighter, of any style, at his own game. In Mayweather's way of thinking, all styles are his style. Nothing in his nine 130-pound championship fights proved otherwise, beginning with Genaro Hernandez quitting on his stool in 1998, and ending with Chavez quitting on his stool 37 months later.

"You've got to realize, I do so many little things that people don't see," Mayweather said. "They see a guy throwing a lot of punches, but a lot of those punches don't land because I catch them with my arms and stuff. If you notice, I'm always totally relaxed, taking my time. You've got to relax up there in a big fight. You can't rush. All Jesus did was rush.

"27-0, with 20 knockouts, and they say there's not any punching power there. Something's there. Hey, not all my shots are hard. I don't try to throw every shot hard. I try to take my time, stay focused, and get the job done right. Don't rush. Land the small shots. I knew Jesus was going to be coming. He calls himself 'The Matador,' but he fights more like a bull. I knew he couldn't outbox me, so the only thing he could do was come straight ahead. So I was just going to take my time, let him punch himself out, and potshot him. Every time he cocked, I threw the short shots, and eventually I wore him down. That was my whole game plan."

Very few top lightweights mimic Chavez' high-pressure style, although Mayweather quickly could run into two who do. First, he is likely to fight WBC titleholder Jose Luis Castillo, the 135-pound champion nearest Chavez in style. If Mayweather wins that fight, he would inherit an immediate mandatory defense against Steve Johnston, who is in no way a pressure fighter. But beating Johnston could elevate current WBC number-two Juan Lazcano into the next mandatory, and Lazcano offers both pressure and a will-

The hard-charging Chavez put more pressure on Mayweather than any previous pro adversary, but Pretty Boy utilized a slippery defense to avoid most, though certainly not all, of his blows.

Chavez gave it everything he had for as long as he could, but trainer Ronnie Shields kept him on his stool at the end of the ninth round to spare the brave warrior further punishment.

ingness to engage in warfare of all sorts, legal and otherwise.

Mayweather's first opponent at 135 probably comes down to negotiations and availability. That means Castillo, who, like Mayweather, is promoted by Top Rank.

"We're concentrating on the fight against Castillo, because Castillo is more reasonable than Spadafora," Bob Arum said. "I talked with Mike Acri [Spadafora's promoter], and the number he was asking for is ludicrous, and was rejected out of hand by HBO. Even if Acri came down on his demands to make the Spadafora fight, it's still easier to make the Castillo fight. And the Spadafora fight comes with the burden of having to fight Angel Manfredy next, because he's the mandatory IBF challenger. Who the hell wants to see that again?"

Mayweather's 1998 two-round blowout of Manfredy was his only 130-pound title fight that didn't span at least seven full rounds.

Kery Davis confirmed that he considered the Spadafora camp's request too high. But HBO's vice president of programming also suggested everything is open to negotiation, including possibly matching Mayweather with new WBA champion Raul Balbi of Argentina.

"The Spadafora fight will happen eventually, because the public demand will make it happen," Davis said. "It may not happen at 135, though. Spadafora already has problems making 135, so it may happen at 140. There's no reason to rush a fight like that."

While Spadafora is a lesser attraction, the asking price never is cheap for risking a title belt against someone of Mayweather's ability.

"I've always believed the fight with Mayweather will be bigger and more competitive than people think," Acri said. "Spadafora boxed with him before, handled him, and made him quit, although the other guy was out of shape at the time. And I think Spadafora himself is confident enough in the challenge."

The buildup to Mayweather's 130-pound swansong featured plenty of twists, including his pronouncement that he would skip lightweight entirely if offered a shot at undisputed junior welterweight champion Kostya Tszyu. That, too, could be an interesting negotiation, and not just because of the HBO-Showtime conflicts.

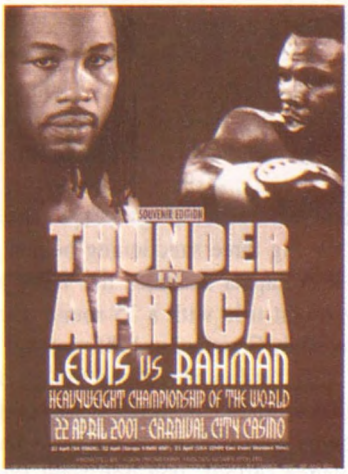
"I would have to get more money than him," Mayweather said.

(Continued on page 44)

A&R Collectibles
Toll-Free:888-667-7767
www.arcollectibles.com
Holiday Gifts *IN STOCK* for The Boxing Fan On Your List

MIKE TYSON – First *EVER* Authenticated Private Signing

EXCLUSIVE Ali-Liston Photo
With a piece of Ali's Fight Robe.
ALL 100% Guaranteed Authentic



Very Rare! Direct From Africa Lewis vs. Rahman I ON-SITE Programs & Posters. $49.95
Plus, Ali-Frazier Autographed HBO Posters, Gloves, Photos & Trunks
CALL TODAY!!
Toll-Free:888-667-7767
www.arcollectibles.com
All Major Credit Cards Accepted

Floyd Mayweather

(Continued from page 43)

The once-beaten Tszyu spent almost three full years collecting the 140-pound titles.

"But I'm the attraction. I'm the draw," Mayweather replied.

Mayweather-Chavez landed in San Francisco for several reasons. Originally scheduled for October 6 in Las Vegas, the fight was postponed after Mayweather underwent emergency surgery to remove his wisdom teeth in August. By the time Arum sought to reschedule, the terrorist attacks had sent Las Vegas into a swoon. HBO, meanwhile, appeared booked tight through 2001, until Prince Naseem Hamed vacated the November 10 date.

Arum reserved a hockey rink in Austin, Texas, but Mayweather rejected Chavez' hometown. Brownsville, Texas; West Wendover, Utah; Phoenix, Arizona; a group of hotels in Laughlin, Nevada; and multiple casinos in the Pacific Northwest were consulted.

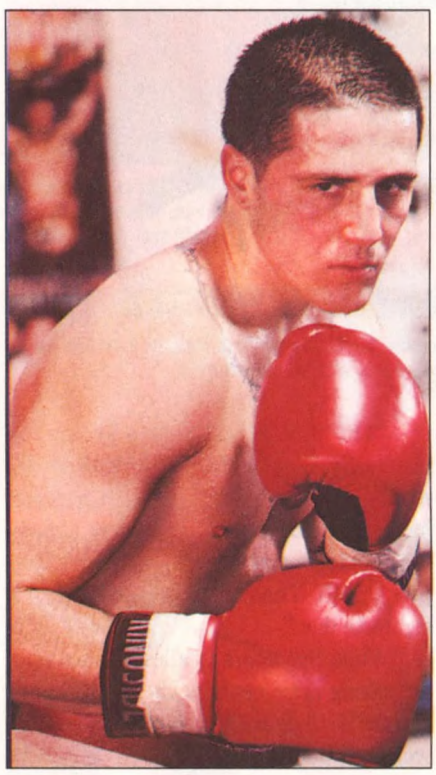
Ultimately, San Francisco's Peter Howes ran into HBO's Davis during Fernando Vargas' September win over Shibata Flores in Las Vegas, and Davis suggested that Howes—who site-promoted two successful summer shows for ESPN2—call Arum.

They struck a deal, and sold out Bill Graham Civic Auditorium's 7,100 seats in advance, despite the only local attraction being a four-round fighter. Arum and Davis both voiced a desire to return soon to San Francisco, which had not hosted a title fight of the big three sanctioning bodies since Hilario Zapata defended the WBC junior flyweight title with a 15-round decision over Rudy Crawford in 1981.

"It's hard to be retrospective when I'm thinking about the future," the gratified Howes said. "Even though we had an advance sellout, you don't get the full sense of it until you're in here, with everybody screaming, 'Floyd, Floyd,' and, 'Chavez, Chavez.' The energy in here was phenomenal."

Chavez, who turned 29 two days after the fight, gently chided Mayweather in the weeks beforehand. He openly questioned whether Mayweather's pullout was legitimately because of dental problems, and whether the champion might choose not to reschedule. He frequently called the champion "overrated." And he warned that, "If his brittle hands aren't strong enough to hold me back, then he's in trouble."

Mayweather relocated training camp three weeks before the fight because of those hands, moving from Phoenix to Las Vegas so he could be closer to familiar medical care. He shot back that Chavez would pay for the "overrated" remarks.



Due to their highly publicized sparring session, a match between Mayweather and IBF lightweight titlist Paul Spadafora (pictured) would be a natural. But Arum thinks that "The Pittsburgh Kid" might price himself out of the fight, making a bout with WBC champ Jose Luis Castillo more likely.

Meanwhile, Mayweather's his uncle-trainer, Roger, questioned Chavez' opposition, which was front-loaded with the strongest foes back in 1997, just before Chavez' deportation—Luis Leija, Louie Espinoza, John Brown, Wilfredo Negron, and Troy Dorsey.

On fight night, Mayweather saw the anticipated bull-rushing by Chavez. First, the champion concentrated on the body, which cost him the second round on two scorecards, as he built a foundation. Mayweather danced through a couple of middle rounds, which cost him the sixth on all three scorecards, but forced Chavez to use his legs. Finally, Mayweather sat down on uppercuts in the eighth and ninth. With a soon-to-be-vacant WBC title and the Joel Casamayor-Acelino Freitas winner on the horizon, Shields told Chavez there would be another day. Chavez agreed.

"He was definitely slowing [me] down," said Chavez, 35-2 (24). "He got my number. He was hitting me with the uppercuts to the body. I could see his punches coming, but basically, I couldn't get out of the way in time. It was the bodyshots.

"I think that probably I'll get another chance in 2002. I don't feel like my stock has gone down at all. I lost to a great champion. I always come to fight. I bring me to the fight game. People don't see nothing but me. I give my 100 percent to it. That was my 100 percent. If people appreciate what they saw, I'm happy."

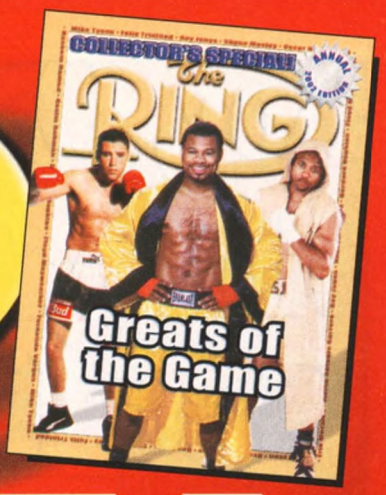
Mayweather exited with few of the hand problems he experienced during his decision over Carlos Hernandez last May in his hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan. He concluded one of the finest 130-pound reigns in history with nine victories and six knockouts, including masterpieces in his three biggest fights—Genaro Hernandez, Manfredy, and Diego Corrales.

But Mayweather's last defense might give bigger champions mental fodder. Chavez' fight plan was implemented by the same man who halted it. But Shields, who got to know Mayweather first-hand during three weeks of training him for the 1996 U.S. Olympic Trials, thinks the effort his fighter displayed will have an impact on future fight plans long after the bumps and bruises have healed.

"Everybody pressures Floyd, but they didn't know how to pressure him before," Shields said. "When you pressure somebody and don't throw punches at him, he can fight all day long. I think before this fight, Carlos Hernandez did the best job out of everybody, as far as getting close. What he didn't do was throw punches. That's the big difference between that fight and this fight, is my guy threw punches and fought his heart out. That's going to be the key to beating Floyd." ■

David Mayo covers boxing for the Grand Rapids Press and is a regular contributor to this magazine.

The RING ANNUAL



THE GREATS OF THE GAME

Mike Tyson . . . Oscar De La Hoya. . . Roy Jones . . . Shane Mosley . . . Felix Trinidad . . . Erik Morales . . . Marco Antonio Barrera. . . Naseem Hamed . . . Hasim Rahman . . . Bernard Hopkins . . . Floyd Mayweather. . . Fernando Vargas

Be proud! You live in an era whose greatest boxers are as good as just about any in the wondrous history of the sport. And, quite frankly, we should know. THE RING has been around for 80 years!

Join us a we devote 132 full-color pages to the careers of today's mega-stars: Their greatest fights, their complete records, memorable quotes by them and about them, and incredible color photos taken by our global staff of award-winning photographers.

ON SALE NOW AT YOUR LOCAL NEWSSTAND!

Or use this handy order form to order by mail.

☐ Please rush me **The Ring Annual: The Greats Of The Game!**

I am enclosing $7.95 per copy (plus $2 postage and handling) as payment in full.

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration date: ____/____
MO/YR

Signature:_____

Send To:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Print your name and address clearly

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____STATE____ZIP_____

For all orders outside the U.S., please include $3.50 for surface mail or $5.00 for airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

5761/9-01/4c

Roy, Oscar, Shane, Tito ... Get In Line!

NOW HOPKINS CALLS THE SHOTS

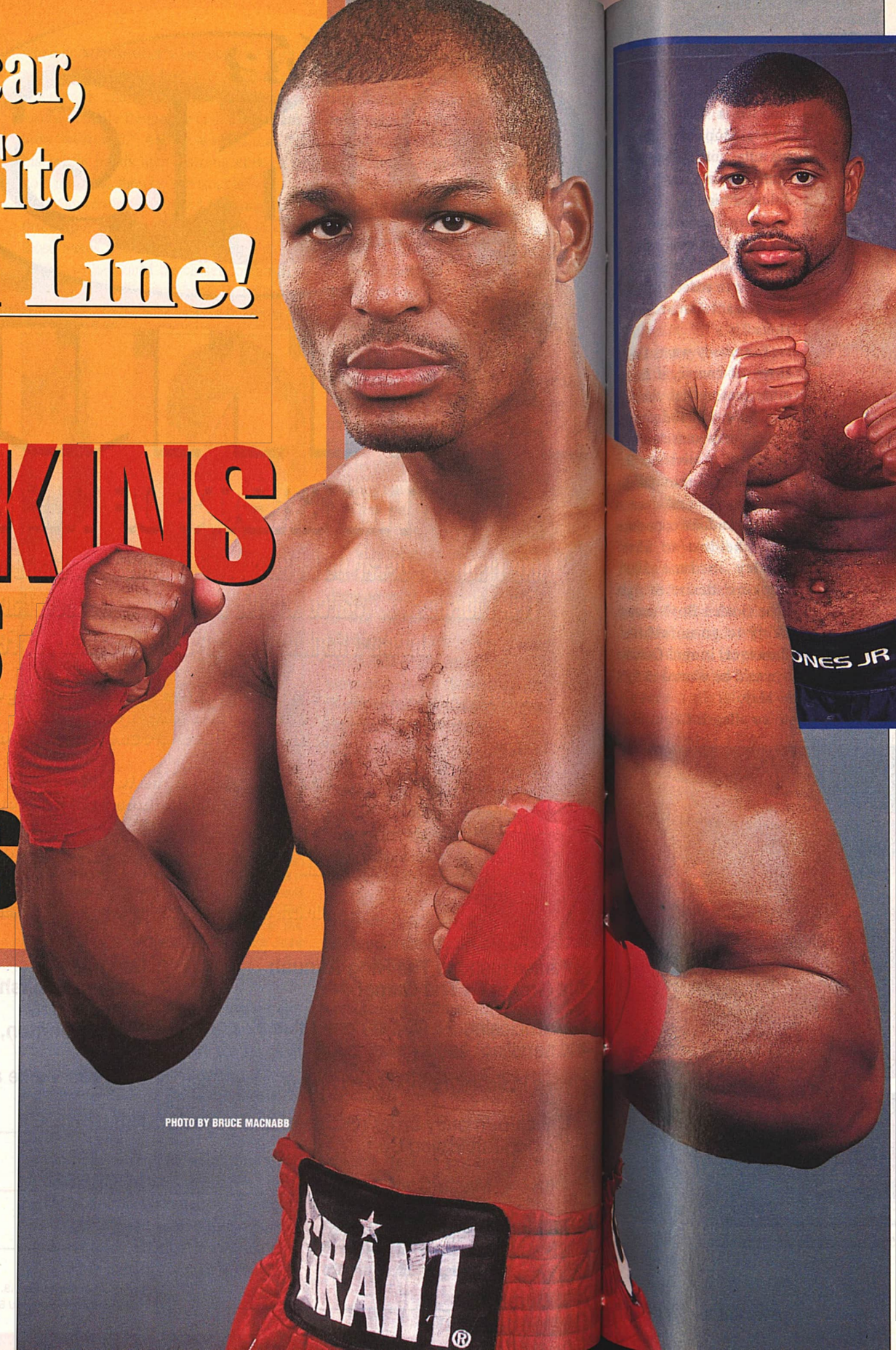


PHOTO BY BRUCE MACNABB

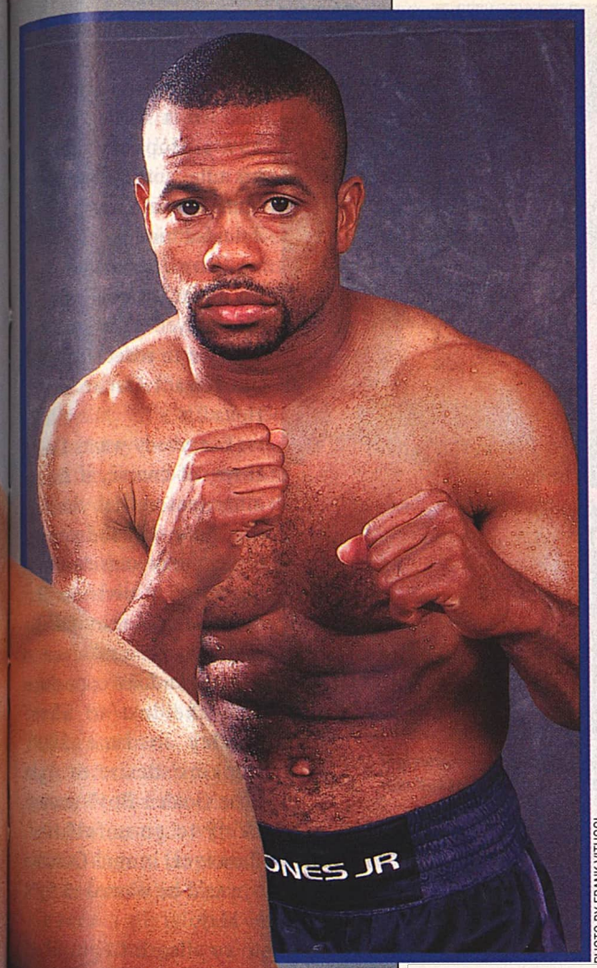


PHOTO BY FRANK VITUCCI

PHOTO BY MARK W. HILL

Undisputed light heavyweight king Roy Jones (left) and undefeated welterweight champion Shane Mosley are two names that have cropped up as future possible opponents for Hopkins. But both have prior obligations they must take care of first, and Jones' previous reluctance to give Hopkins a rematch could also work against him.

By Johnnie Whitehead

Bernard Hopkins is seldom at a loss for words. Asked when he knew he had his fight with Felix Trinidad won, he answered crisply, with a confidence that no one will ever doubt again.

"When he signed the contract," replied the first undisputed middleweight champion since Marvin Hagler.

That's the kind of sassy yet succinct answer that Hopkins has been giving for years. But when "The Executioner" was queried about his immediate future, his response was uncharacteristically brief and ambiguous.

"I don't have quick answers," admitted Hopkins.

And as of press time, neither did anyone else.

When it comes to long-range plans, Father Time isn't on Hopkins' side, and most insiders estimate that he'll fight a maximum of five or six more times before he hangs up his gloves. But whom those bouts will be against remains a puzzle.

"Bernard will be 37 in January," noted his adviser, Lou DiBella. "Look, he's not going to be 40 and fighting. We're looking to a Roy Jones fight, but not to Roy's timing. We're looking for the biggest fight we can get at Bernard's weight or below."

It's a shame that recognition couldn't have come much sooner so that we could have appreciated the full scope of Hopkins' talents much earlier in his career. There was, however, a reason the 160-pound weight class became stagnant the past 10 years. But it wasn't Hopkins' fault. Those previous pretenders to his throne, William Joppy and Keith Holmes, relied on boxing's equivalent of the run and shoot offense: They ran from Hopkins, hid behind their promoter, and shot off their mouths, even though they had no intention of fighting him until Don King's Middleweight World Championship Series forced their hands.

Ironically, it was King, Hopkins' current promoter, who constructed every obstacle to protect the other titlists and deny Hopkins the opportunity to prove

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Oscar De La Hoya, pictured en route to outpointing Francisco Castillejo for the WBC super welterweight title in Las Vegas last June, recently said that he wants to fight Hopkins. That would certainly suit "The Executioner," who had already said that "The Golden Boy" was his first preference.

himself, basically because the Philadelphian wouldn't agree to King's take-it-or-leave-it contractual terms. But King's middleweight tournament and Hopkins' relationship with DiBella have changed all that, and former antagonists King and Hopkins will be working together for the foreseeable future.

Although he'd previously sought a rematch with Jones (who outpointed him in a dull fight in 1993), Hopkins changed his tune somewhat in the immediate aftermath of the Trinidad triumph.

"Roy Jones is not on my radar," said Hopkins. "He played games on me. I'd love to redeem myself, but I want Oscar De La Hoya."

Everybody wants De La Hoya, of course, if for no other reason than the fact that he's still the sport's biggest draw outside of the heavyweight division. But considering that De La Hoya has been reluctant to fight hazardous opposition since he lost to Shane Mosley in June 2000, Hopkins' desire to fight "The Golden Boy" seemed likely to go unfulfilled. That changed, however, in mid-October when De La Hoya said he wanted to fight Hopkins in early-May.

"I'm going to go after this fight like I

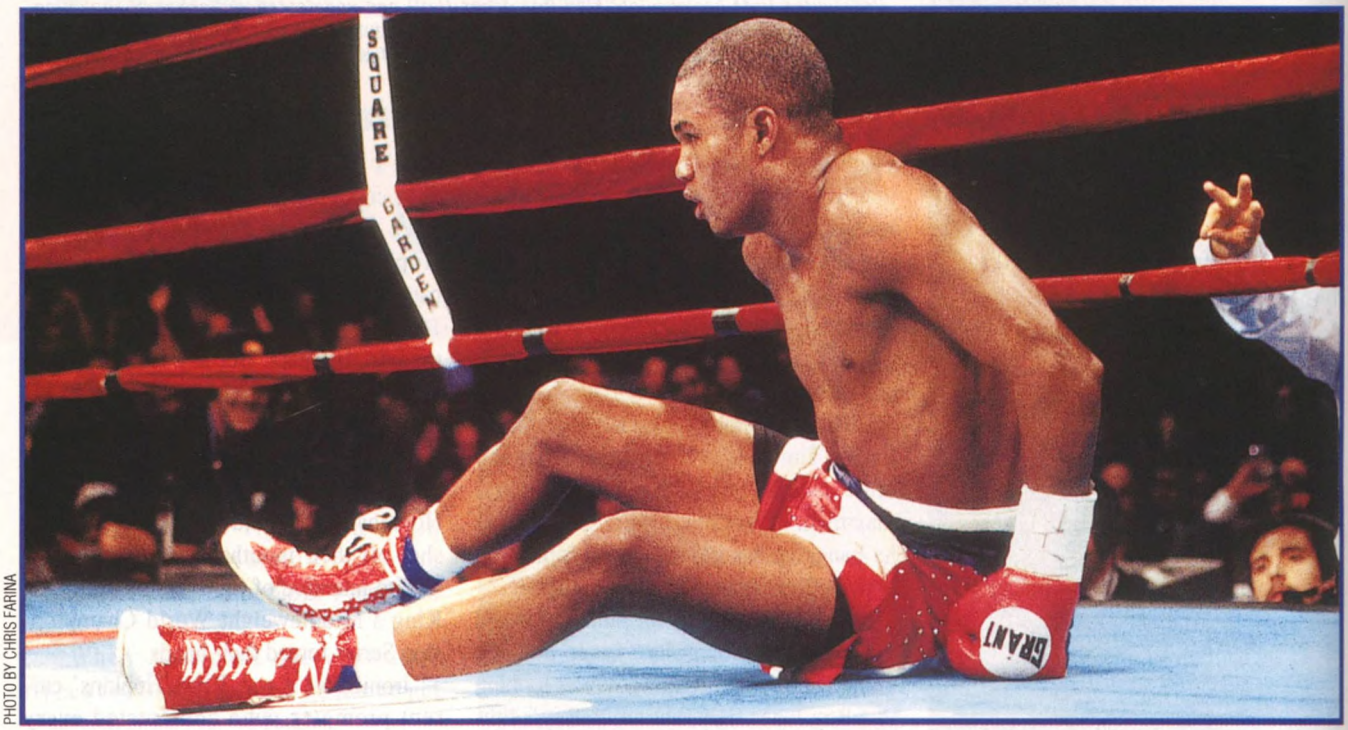


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

A rematch with Trinidad is always a possibility for Hopkins, but their first fight was so one-sided, "Tito" would need to reestablish himself first.

never have before," De La Hoya told Mike Rosenthal of the *Los Angeles Times*. "Right now, he's the man, and I know I can beat him. I'm not going to let no 38-year-old man [De La Hoya was off by a year] beat me, that's for sure."

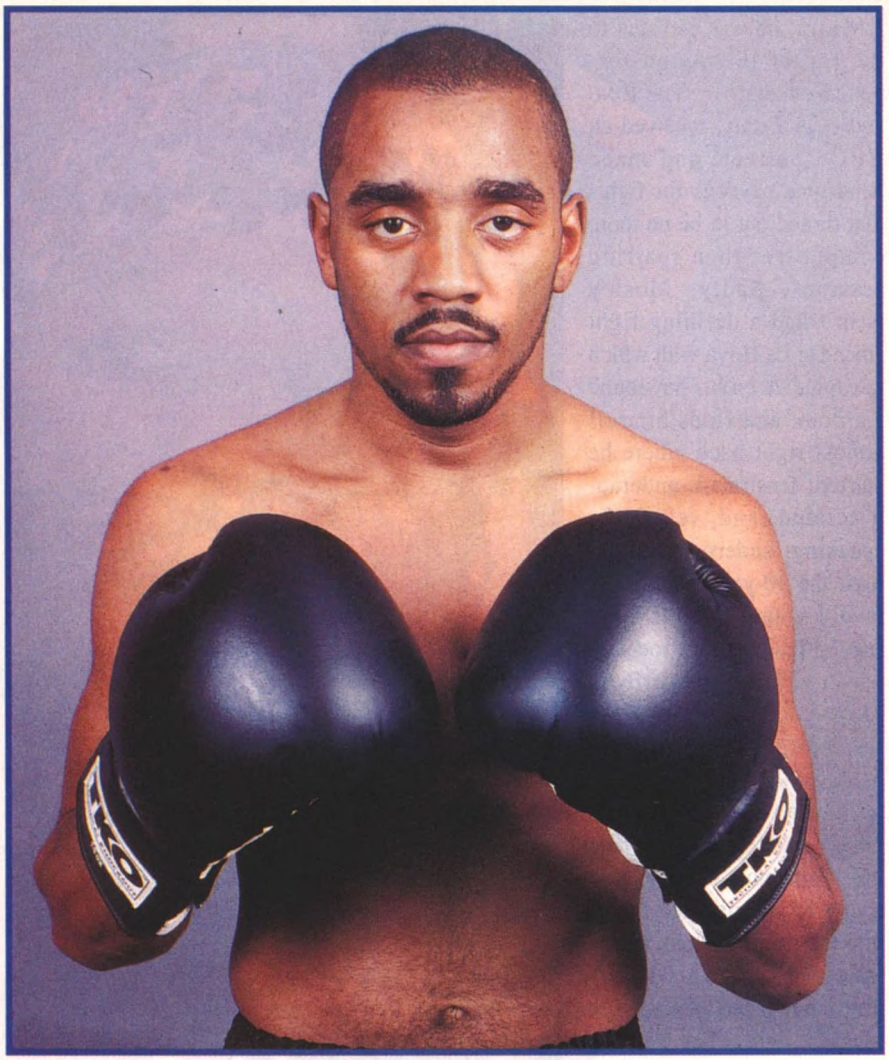
De La Hoya and Hopkins aren't the only two who think it would be an excellent match that makes sense from both fighters' point of view.

"Oscar is always the best option because it's the most money, and Hopkins will beat Oscar," said ESPN2 analyst Max Kellerman. "It's also the best option for Oscar. Everyone would get off of his back about the Trinidad fight. And if he loses, so what? He's losing to the best middleweight of the era."

First, however, De La Hoya has to recover from wrist surgery, which will probably keep him out of action until the spring. After that, providing he wants to keep the WBC super welterweight belt, De La Hoya will have to defend against Roman Karmazin, the organization's number-one contender. So it will be some time before we find out exactly how hard he'll "go after" a match with The Executioner.

Moreover, Hopkins' first order of business will be trying to break Carlos Monzon's division record of 14 title defenses. The undisputed champ wants to go for number 15 in his hometown of Philadelphia, perhaps as early as February. He'd prefer to do it against a marquee opponent, but when Hopkins entered the middleweight tournament, he verbally agreed to defend the IBF belt (the one he's held since '95) against mandatory challenger Carl Daniels, 47-3-1 (30), in his first defense as the unified champion. While DiBella believes his client should consider blowing off the sanctioning body's demands and fight someone else instead, Hopkins remains loyal to the organization that first wrapped a world title belt around his waist and stuck with him during inactivity caused by legal squabbles with promoters.

While Daniels does not have a promoter, DiBella could try to sign him and/or give the former WBA super welterweight titlist a step-aside fee to wait one more fight, so Hopkins can be involved in a more intriguing matchup. HBO will televise Hopkins' next fight no matter the opponent.



Carl Daniels hasn't worn a world title belt since 1995, but the veteran campaigner is currently the IBF's top middleweight contender. Daniels could very well be the challenger when Hopkins attempts to establish a new division record for successful title defenses.

"Everyone should remember this guy is 36," said Kery Davis, executive vice president of HBO Sports. "I don't think you game plan for someone 36. The best thing is to get involved with as many big fights as possible and as quickly as possible."

Regardless of whether it's Daniels or somebody else Hopkins fights when he goes for the record, the defending champion will be heavily favored. It is, therefore, Hopkins' fight after the next one that holds the greatest intrigue.

It could be Jones or it could be De La Hoya, but it could also be Mosley, who, while admitting that he probably couldn't get up to 160 pounds and still be effective, has expressed a willingness to fight Hopkins at 154 pounds. Hopkins walks around at 165 pounds and never has to struggle to make the middleweight limit of 160. In fact, he weighed in at 157 for Trinidad and could probably shed three more pounds without weakening himself.

"Sugar Shane would be a tremendous fight for Hopkins, but I think Hopkins is too big for him," said Kellerman.

Davis agrees, but admitted that if Mosley were bold enough to call out Hopkins, HBO would jump on the opportunity to televise it.

"I don't know that it's likely," said Davis. "Just a year-and-a-half ago, Mosley was fighting at lightweight. When you see Mosley stand next to Trinidad, Trinidad looks much bigger. And Hopkins was bigger than Trinidad."

WBC 147-pound boss Mosley certainly seems amenable to meeting Hopkins halfway, and has already talked about moving up from welterweight and challenging new IBF junior middleweight titlist Winky Wright in 2002.

In a way, Hopkins and Mosley share a similar problem. When Mosley upset De

La Hoya, he was elevated to the top of the pound-for-pound rankings by THE RING and *USA Today*, received an HBO contract, and made handsome paydays for fights that turned out to be no more competitive than sparring sessions. Sadly, Mosley hasn't had a defining fight since De La Hoya with which to capitalize on his newfound stardom, and finds himself almost right back where he started: frustrated, underappreciated, and, relatively speaking, underpaid. But at least the 30-year-old Mosley is still young and has more time to find the right foe with whom to build a superfight. There's not as much time left for Hopkins to cash in.

Although Hopkins, 40-2-1 (29) with 1 no-contest, has never ducked anybody and has spent most of his career trying to get marquee names into the ring with him, at this juncture, he and DiBella don't necessarily want the toughest fight. They want the highest profile fights, against the highest profile opponents, the ones who'll generate the most money. And no one can blame them; they've earned that right.

If all else fails, a Trinidad rematch could be an option. Though there's been talk out of Puerto Rico that Trinidad wants to redeem himself by fighting Hopkins again, Davis says no one has contacted him about a rematch. And since the outcome of the first time was definitive and one-sided, it would be a tough sell unless Trinidad comes back and reestablishes himself first. So where does this all leave Hopkins? Which scenario would be best for all concerned?

"The best natural opponent for Hopkins is Roy Jones," said Davis. "It doesn't get much better than that. There is already bad blood between them. It's a natural fight for both men. It can happen, but it's going to take compromise from both sides."

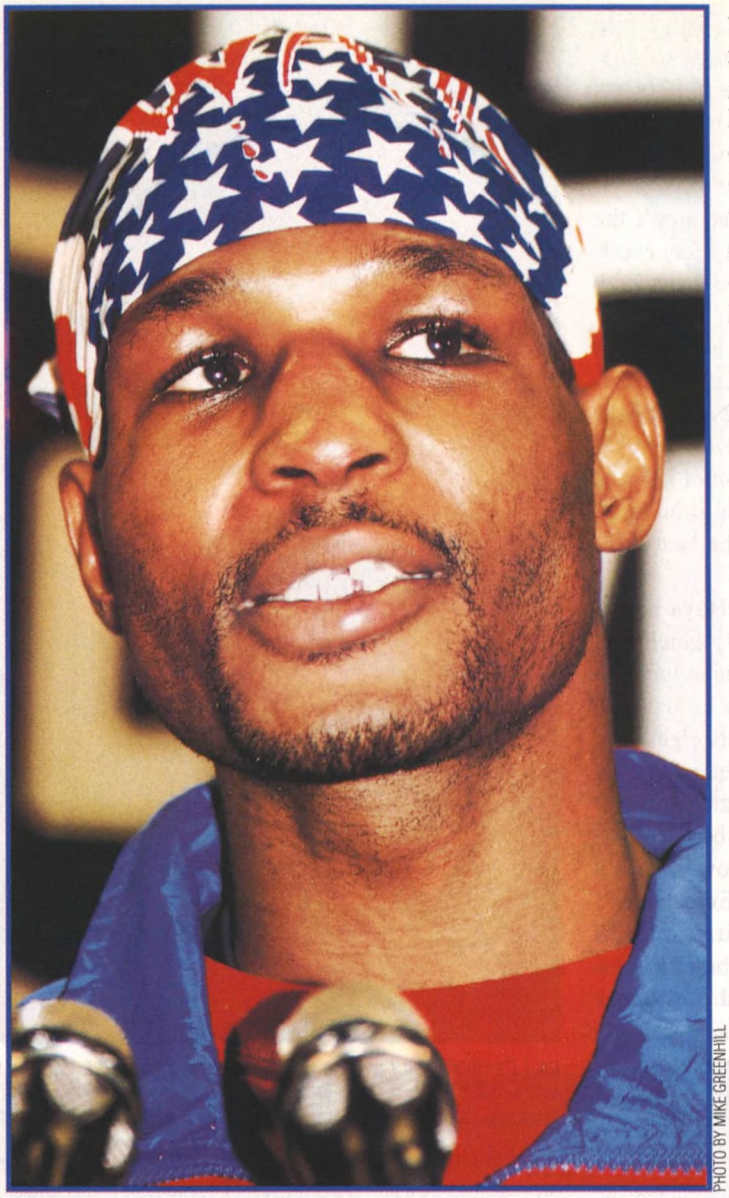


PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

Regardless of whom Hopkins fights next, after years of struggling against boxing's power brokers, he's finally established himself as one of the sport's finest fighters and most outspoken personalities.

Before King's middleweight unification series began, Jones and Hopkins were close to an agreement. Jones, however, demanded that if Hopkins were to win, he'd have to fight Jones a third time, but with an earnings cap. In other words, Jones didn't want to fight a guy who is now a lot more polished and confident than he was eight years ago, so he came up with a ridiculous demand to kill the deal.

Hopkins sees Jones as an affront to himself and to boxing. He sees his one-time conqueror as a hypocrite who speaks out often on the ills of the sport, but has done nothing with his influence to help out guys like Hopkins, who have been victims of the same corrupt machine. Sure, Jones has given a hand to a buddy like Derrick Gainer, or an opportunity to someone like Otis Grant, in an optional title defense, out of the goodness of his heart—or so he says. But not Hopkins.

Even before beating Trinidad, there was no doubt that Hopkins had earned another shot at Jones far more than guys like Rick Frazier, Derrick Harmon, Richard Hall, Julio Gonzalez, or Glenn Kelly, the next no-hoper on Jones' schedule. From many observers' point of view, Hopkins is a self-made, refined product, while "Reluctant Roy" appears content to live off of accomplishments that took place so long ago that they no longer matter.

"Bernard made this promotion," said an emotional DiBella at the Trinidad-Hopkins postfight conference. "He carried it on his back and his mouth. Now he's a star. I don't want to hear about Roy Jones. Roy Jones can kiss his ass."

While it's easy to understand how Hopkins and DiBella feel, boxing fans would prefer to see Jones try to kick the aforementioned body part instead of kiss it. But if a Hopkins-Jones rematch isn't to be, De La Hoya or Mosley would be superb substitutes. And if all the supplicants suddenly seeking an audience with The Executioner thought he was difficult to deal with before, wait until he sets a new record for middleweight defenses and then turns his attention to achieving his new goal—20 successful defenses, which certainly leaves enough room for all of the above mentioned fighters to be accommodated, plus a few more. ■

Johnnie Whitehead is an editor at USA Today and a regular contributor to this magazine.

The RING PREDICTS ...

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR 2002

Section Compiled By Eric Raskin & William Dettloff

Despite what Dionne Warwick and her psychic friends would like us to believe, nobody really knows what the future holds. Even when ESPN2's Bob Papa gets his umpteenth consecutive big-fight prediction right, it doesn't mean we should put him on trial for witchcraft; he's just good at making educated guesses. And that's a big part of being a boxing journalist: using the knowledge gained in spending every waking hour watching and analyzing the Sweet Science to come up with educated guesses about what's going to happen next.

2001 was a year full of surprises, from all of the major upsets, to the unification of some titles we thought might never get unified, to Hasim Rahman making like the WWF's version of "The Rock" and putting Lennox Lewis through a table. It would be foolish, therefore, for anyone to boldly say they know exactly what's going to happen in 2002 and expect to get everything right. But if you're a regular reader of THE RING, you know we're damned sure going to try.

Over the next 14 pages, we'll use our crystal ball to tell you what we think 2002 has in store for boxing fans. It starts with a look at 10 fights we want to see in the new year, with predictions regarding the outcomes as well as the likelihood that these tantalizing matchups will come off. After that, we name four fighters who we believe will win their first world titles in 2002, followed by four fighters who we expect to end their professional careers before year's end. Then we turn the prediction-making over to an outside group of experts, as we ask them to speculate on who will be 2002's Fighter of the Year. And finally, we ask and answer 10 burning questions that are on many boxing fans' minds as the calendar turns over.

Are we going to get everything right? Probably not. That would be like asking Barry Bonds to hit a home run in every at bat next year. But we think there will be a few round-trippers in here, and we're confident that our batting average on the whole will be respectable. And the best part for you, the reader, is that our psychic powers come relatively cheap, compared to paying a couple of bucks a minute to hear some huckster in a bandanna tell you what the future holds.

10 FIGHTS WE'D LIKE TO SEE IN 2002

You can hope things go well for boxing in 2002. You can hope for fewer ring deaths and for higher television ratings. You can hope for a couple of network shows and that Atlantic City starts hosting big fights again. You can hope there are fewer decisions that are rotten and you can hope the sanctioning bodies will dry up and float away or at least stop embarrassing themselves so much. You can hope fighters at the bottom and even those at the top will get some sort of pension or something and you can hope to see a fight article or two in a major newspaper every once in a great while.

You can hope for all those things, and each one would help the game a little, but only one thing can keep it alive and make it better, make it really breathe well: great fights. Right or wrong, we can put up with all the other crap. A lot of it will take care of itself so long as there are great fights to watch. It won't cure everything, but it will cure a lot. Toward that end, in this section we've selected 10 fights we'd like to see in 2002. We tell you why we'd like to see them, who will win them and why, and how good or bad the chances are that you'll see them come off in the new year. We're sorry to report they're not all a sure thing. Frankly, the majority are not, but that's okay. As we saw last year, great fights have a habit of turning up where you don't expect them to. We get the sense '02 will pick up right where '01 left off.

Marco Antonio Barrera-Erik Morales II

Why We'd Like To See It: First, the obvious. The first fight was spectacular: Morales sharp-shooting from the outside, fighting desperately to maintain room and distance; Barrera straining to get inside and working over Morales with hooks when he got there. The intensity was stirring. The second reason? To right a wrong. Most of us thought Barrera was a little bit better than Morales that night and that he should have gotten the decision. The least he deserves is another chance.

PHOTO BY ANTHONY NESTE/HBO

Morales and Barrera wage 2000's Fight of the Year

Who Will Win And Why: Barrera wins the rematch, but not because he dominated Morales the first time, and not because the first fight ruined Morales, as many have speculated. It wasn't at all easy the first time for Barrera—that's why it was so good—and it wasn't so hard on Morales that it ruined him. He's just in a slump. Still, Barrera's discovered how much fun it is to box, and even though Morales can box well too, he won't know how to deal with a less reckless Barrera, whose caution will provide fewer counterpunching opportunities. A good fight again, but a tactical one with the right guy this time—Barrera—getting the decision.

Chances Of It Happening: The fight is rumored to be in the works for March 2, but they may wait first for Morales to look

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/FRONTIERS

Echols-Brewer I comes to a controversial conclusion

good again against someone else, just once. He looked awful winning the WBC featherweight title from Guty Espadas and defending it against In Jin Chi. Barrera, meanwhile, won the fight of his career by disrobing Naseem Hamed and was superlative against Enrique Sanchez. Morales wants the fight, so it'll happen. But he may have to knock someone out impressively, and then you'll hear that the contracts have been signed.

Antwun Echols-Charles Brewer II

Why We'd Like To See It: Talk about a no-brainer. These two started blasting one another in the first round the last time they met and the chin-shrapnel still hasn't stopped falling. First Brewer was hurt. Then Echols. Echols went down, got up. Went down again, got up again. And again. Then Brewer wobbled all over the place. Brewer got an eight-count. Brewer got pounded on the ropes and the ref stopped it. Great fight, terrible ending. Brewer deserves a return, and so do we.

Who Will Win And Why: The wild card with Brewer always will be his chin. That's just the way it is. It looked pretty sturdy against Fernando Zuniga recently, but only because Zuniga can't punch. Brewer can beat Echols all night long—he has the skills, the speed, the power to do it—and get poked on the jaw in the last minute of the fight and get counted out. Against a puncher like Echols, Brewer has to fight a perfect fight (see Terry Norris against Simon Brown II). We don't see it happening. Echols by late-round kayo.

Chances Of It Happening: Don't hold your breath. Echols and his handlers know that even though his punch and Brewer's fragile chin add up to good things for Echols, they also know how close Brewer was to scoring a second-round knockout the first time around. A different referee and who knows? There are other soft-chinned guys out there Echols can knock out who don't have the offense Brewer does and who come with less risk. Echols said after the fight he wasn't interested in a rematch. He meant it.

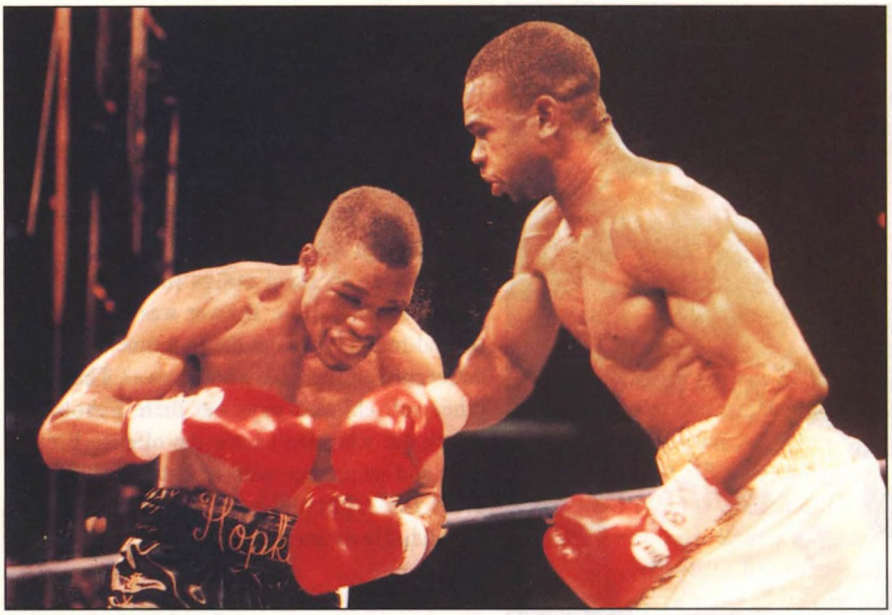
Oscar De La Hoya-Fernando Vargas

Why We'd Like To See It: Just one thing that sells better than a good, old-fashioned grudge match: a good, old-fashioned grudge match between two world-class fighters that also represents a partial title unification. You can't go wrong here. Vargas detests De La Hoya. De La Hoya feels probably the same about Vargas but is too media-conscious to say it. Mexicans and Mexican-Americans, by and large, love Vargas and loathe De La Hoya. The styles mesh well. What more do you want?

Who Will Win And Why: The easy answer here is to say De La Hoya wins because Felix Trinidad ruined Vargas. We're not

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Vargas fires a right to Shibata Flores' ribs



Jones was a little better than Hopkins eight years ago

saying that. We say De La Hoya beats either Vargas, the pre-Trinidad one or the post-Trinidad one. De La Hoya's the better fighter. While it's true that at 154 pounds De La Hoya is not the puncher Vargas is, De La Hoya is still superbly light on his feet, his hand speed is superior to Vargas', and so are his skills. This is a good fighter against a very good one, and it looks closer on paper than it really is. De La Hoya by comfortable decision.

Chances Of It Happening: It was looking pretty good until De La Hoya recently released his itinerary for 2002, and Vargas' name wasn't on it. Instead, De La Hoya's plan includes fights with Bernard Hopkins, Trinidad, and Shane Mosley, in that order. But we all know how fickle De La Hoya is. He was scheduled to fight Vargas in late-'01, but he pulled the plug at the last minute and instead chose to fulfill his mandatory against Roman Karmazin. So while the Vargas fight looks like a longshot now, that could easily change.

Roy Jones-Bernard Hopkins II

Why We'd Like To See It: We want to see this one because it should have happened already. It should have happened before the middleweight tournament even got started. It should have happened when HBO tried to get it done, but Jones sabotaged it the way he does fights that look like they could turn out to be tough. It should have happened already—not because Hopkins deserved it, but because fight fans deserved it. We'd like to see it because we'd like to see Jones fight someone he doesn't want to fight.

Who Will Win And Why: We'd like as much as the next guy to see Hopkins beat Jones. Hopkins is so damned likable, while Jones insists on being, well, Jones. And an upset isn't out of the question. The first fight was a long time ago and you could make the case that Hopkins is better and Jones isn't. It's not enough. Jones looks like he's fighting at half-speed because he is. Against Hopkins, he brings his A-game, and Jones' A-game, even though he's older and a half a beat slower now, is still too much for Hopkins. It's a closer fight this time, but with the same result, and we don't like it any better than you do. Jones by decision.

Chances Of It Happening: Keep dreaming. The big money fights that could happen for Hopkins are between 154 and 160. Not between 160 and 170. Think Mosley and Vargas and De La Hoya. Jones will talk about fighting heavyweights and he'll talk about going to 168 and fighting Joe Calzaghe and he'll do neither. He'll keep fighting mandatories, and when he slides farther down the pound-for-pound ratings, he'll record another god-awful rap song that tells us what idiots we all are.

Ricardo Lopez-Eric Morel

Why We'd Like To See It: Talk about contrast. Morel is a dedicated stylist. He makes Paul Spadafora look like Tony Zale. The guy has some of the prettiest moves in the game moving away, and Lopez has some of the prettiest moving in. Lopez can

Lopez reaches Petelo with a right

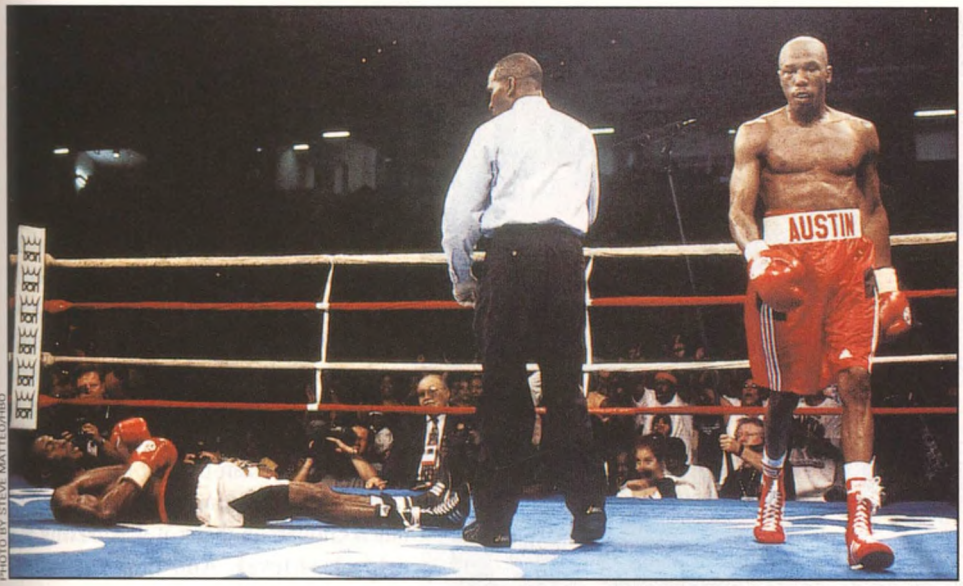


PHOTO BY STEVE MATTEO/HBO

Will Austin flatten Pacquiao like he did Steve Dotse?

box when he has to, but he wouldn't against Morel. He'd go after him, and there you have the classic matchup featuring boxer versus slugger, youth versus age. Perfect.

Who Will Win And Why: Common sense tells you Lopez has to lose someday, and it looked time a couple of years ago when Rosendo Alvarez gave him hell and again when Will Grigsby didn't cooperate. You figure that gives the kid Morel a chance, and with his legs and Lopez' aging bones, who knows? But the Lopez who took apart Zolani Petelo body punch by body punch isn't done yet. He gives Morel no room or time to breathe, and the kid never saw anything before like this. He makes Lopez miss a lot early, but the pressure is too much. Lopez by late stoppage or decision.

Chances Of It Happening: Don't count on ever seeing this one. First, Lopez would have to move up four pounds. Considering it took him 48 fights to jump from strawweight to junior flyweight and that was only three pounds, we figure Morel will be about 74 when Lopez finally makes the move. Secondly, Lopez belongs to Don King, and we just don't see King risking a fight with a young, undefeated, bigger champion like Morel, who just happens to be promoted by Bob Arum. What a shame.

Tim Austin-Manny Pacquiao

Why We'd Like To See It: There are good reasons for this fight to happen and they don't all involve the fireworks that would surely come. It's true that in terms of styles it's a beauty: Pacquiao's power and tenacity against Austin's classic skills and technique. The bigger reason is Austin's been buried on Don King undercards too long. Guys all around his weight, many less talented than he, are making good money in big fights. He's too good to go to waste anymore.

Who Will Win And Why: As much as Austin needs a big fight like this, it's not without risk; that's one of the things that makes it interesting. Pacquiao carries dynamite in both hands and Austin can be hurt. He was hurt against Mbulelo Botile and, most dramatically, against Sergio Aguila in a March 1999 title defense. He'd have to be careful, but he's tall enough, fast enough, and rangy enough to keep Pacquaio at distance and outbox him over 12. Austin by decision.

Chances Of It Happening: Sadly, don't get your hopes up. We don't know what happened, but somewhere along the line Austin must have gotten on King's bad side. Maybe he didn't jump high enough when King told him to. Maybe the contract isn't tight. Maybe now that King is playing with the big boys again he doesn't care about Austin. We don't know. But Austin's made just seven defenses in four years, most of them against hopeless challengers. What a terrible waste of talent.

Micky Ward-Arturo Gatti

Why We'd Like To See It: Some would call us sadists for wanting to see this one. Maybe we are, because you know it would be brutal and there would be a lot of blood and maybe

PHOTO BY ANGIE CARLINO

Ward fires his famous hook against Emanuel Burton

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Ayala and Adams are headed for a rematch

hundreds of punches before either guy took a knee or a step backward or even tried to duck out of the way. Maybe we're all sadistic. Tough. Neither Ward nor Gatti are tremendously gifted or talented, but you'll find no one tougher or more willing to fight to the severest level. This would be one for the ages.

Who Will Win And Why: Historically, Ward freezes in the big fights and can't let his hands go (most recently against Antonio Diaz). Gatti doesn't freeze, but he takes too many punches and, at any weight over lightweight, his punch is just a little better than ordinary (the Joey Gamache beheading was an aberration). Plus, he's just been through too much, with the weight and the wars. If Ward freezes, he's done. Gatti will run roughshod over him. But the sense here is that he won't freeze because he knows it's a winnable fight. That's bad news for Gatti, whose tender eyebrows will bust open and cause a stoppage after six or seven memorable rounds.

Chances Of It Happening: There's a real chance this could happen. It's gotten support from a couple of well-connected voices in the game, and reportedly, HBO is interested—just not at the price the fighters are looking for. If Gatti gets back in the ring soon and can look good against a credible opponent, and if Ward keeps producing spectacular slugfests like the one he waged with Emanuel Burton, HBO could be swayed to pay the money Gatti and Ward want. Keep your fingers crossed.

Bones Adams-Paulie Ayala II

Why We'd Like To See It: Why does it seem like so many outstanding fights end controversially (especially those involving Ayala)? Adams-Ayala I was a riveting, slam-bang affair between two of the nicest and most humble guys you ever want to meet who also happen to be excellent prize fighters. There wasn't a dull minute except for between rounds, and it wasn't like two Golden Glovers in there; it was boxing at a world-class level. And then the judges went and screwed it up by giving it to Ayala. There's no reason it wouldn't be a great fight again. Adams deserves it, and both of them deserve to make a boatload of money again. What's not to like?

Who Will Win And Why: There is utterly no reason to think a second fight between these two would be markedly different from the first fight. Maybe Adams doesn't get wobbled and almost floored early on. Big deal. Maybe a headbutt or an elbow on the inside causes a cut that plays a role, or maybe someone

PHOTO BY TEDDY BLACKBURN

Tate tries to fend off Sheika's attack

breaks a hand. Maybe not. Other than that, it's most probably a replay of the first one. But Ayala's luck has to run out some time. Doesn't it? Bones by decision.

Chances Of It Happening: Done and done. HBO likes it, Bob Arum likes it, the fighters like it, the fans like it. Sure, something wacky could happen. Adams could suddenly sign with Don King and run off to face Johnny Tapia. Ayala could decide he wants more money because he won last time and negotiate himself out of it. Hell, both guys could decide they love Venezuela and refuse the rematch in the hope that their former benefactors at the WBA return their old belts. Forget it. This one's a lock.

Thomas Tate-Omar Sheika II

Why We'd Like To See It: Right now, somewhere in Paterson, New Jersey, Sheika is still fuming about the way his first fight with Tate ended. In a way we can't blame him. He had Tate down twice, was leading on the cards, and might have stopped the veteran if given another round or two. But his eye looked like the inside of an oyster. There's no way you let that fight go on. If he could see anything on that side, as he claimed he could, he must have an extra eyeball somewhere that we don't know about because he wasn't seeing anything out of that one. But it was great for the four rounds that it lasted and that's why we want to see it again.

Who Will Win And Why: We know Tate was down. We know he didn't go down because he was looking for his contacts. Sheika put him there. But it looked to us like Tate might have had it back together when the fight was stopped. It looked too like over the long haul, if there had been one, he would have done okay for himself, jabbing the wide-open Sheika and staying just far enough inside or outside to keep safe. It's a tough one, but in a rematch, when he knows what to expect and is ready, call it Tate by decision.

Chances Of It Happening: Rule number one in boxing: You don't do anything out of principle. The first match was an eliminator to see who would become the IBF's top contender. Tate won it and now he can wait for a title shot. Why would he fight Sheika again and risk blowing it? To prove a point? Ridiculous! His manager should be fired if he even thinks about it. Tate won fair and square, and Sheika has to start over and that's the way it is. It's a bummer for us and a bigger one for Sheika, but we don't blame Tate a bit.

PHOTO BY TEDDY BLACKBURN

PHOTO BY PAT ORR

Jirov whacks out overwhelmed Terry McGroom

Vassiliy Jirov-Juan Carlos Gomez

Why We'd Like To See It: Look, even the cruiserweight division has some interesting fights in it, and don't fans of the 190-pound division deserve a unified title, like they have at 140, 160, and 175, or even a partially unified one? Virgil Hill's surprising blowout of Fabrice Tiozzo notwithstanding, most of us recognize Jirov and Gomez as the best cruiserweights in the world. Why not get them together and find out which one is better?

Who Will Win And Why: Jirov is as tough as he is pale and he ranks right with Shane Mosley as one of the best bodypunchers in the game. But it doesn't say good things about him that undersized, underexperienced, and overmatched Julian Letterlough made his legs stop working for a minute with a single hook during their September '01 encounter. He's just too easy to hit, and provided Gomez is as good as he looks, he should have little trouble finding Jirov's big, square jaw. Gomez by late kayo.

Chances Of It Happening: Forget it! Look at it this way: Unification fights occur when at least one of the guys involved is a big attraction: Felix Trinidad, Roy Jones, Zab Judah. The money generated around the unification is what makes the unification possible. No big attraction, no unification. Who's the attraction here? Neither one! There's no money to be made. Jirov and Gomez and their guys will make more with them as partial champions than they would in a unification match. It's not worth the risk. ■

FOUR FIGHTERS WHO WILL WIN THEIR FIRST TITLE IN 2002

PHOTO BY BILL CHAN/HBO

Johnson exchanges lefts with Al Cole

Kirk Johnson

Every heavyweight contender in the world wishes he was in Kirk Johnson's position. The former Canadian Olympian is the mandatory challenger for the WBA belt, which means all he has to do is defeat the winner of John Ruiz-Evander Holyfield III (which was still pending as this magazine went to press) to earn a portion of the heavyweight title.

Granted, he won't be the *real* heavyweight champion even if he wins. That designation is reserved for the winner of the Hasim Rahman-Lennox Lewis rematch. But capturing the WBA crown would still put Johnson's name in the record books, significantly increase his fee for future fights, and perhaps position him for a shot at the legitimate crown. He's in the pole position for the pole position, so to speak, and that's a great place for the undefeated Johnson to be.

The versatile 29-year-old would be the pick here against either Ruiz or Holyfield. He's far more athletic than either one of them at this point, he's quicker than either one of them, and he arguably has a bigger punch than either one of them. When Johnson whacked out Oleg Maskaev in October 2000, he did it using a combination of boxing skills, ring smarts, and one-punch power. Sure, he didn't look great against Larry Donald last June, but Donald isn't an easy guy to look great against. The bottom line is that Johnson won.

Johnson isn't necessarily the best of the heavyweight contenders, but he's in the most enviable spot, and his title shot should be coming in the spring. After a long, slow, steady rise to the top, Johnson will earn a piece of the heavyweight title in 2002.

Juan Manuel Marquez

Outstanding Mexican featherweights aren't hard to come by. Marco Antonio Barrera is the best in the world, Erik Morales isn't far behind, and Guty Espadas and Manuel Medina are both among the top 10 or 12. But heritage, weight class, and top-notch ability aren't all that those four have in common. They've also all been called world champions. Juan Manuel Marquez shares the Mexican blood, the 126-pound frame, and the world-class skills, but he has not yet brought home a world title belt. But that ought to change in 2002.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Marquez failed against Norwood, but he's in position for another try

Certainly, Marquez deserves a title shot. In his lone title challenge to date, he floored Fred Norwood twice (though one was mistakingly ruled a slip) and, in the eyes of most, deserved the decision. But he didn't get it, and the fight was such an aesthetic atrocity that a rematch was out of the question despite the controversial nature of the bout. Marquez' only other loss came via DQ in his pro debut, and he's scored wins over Julian Wheeler (KO

10), Agapito Sanchez (W 12), Alfred Kotey (W 12), Enrique Jupiter (KO 8), Daniel Jimenez (KO 7), Reynante Jamili (KO 3), and Julio Gamboa (KO 6). His most recent win, a 56-second thrashing of Johnny Walker, was nothing short of awesome. He's fast and he's fierce, and at age 28, he's more than ready.

So is Marquez going to get his chance? He's in good shape with the alphabet bodies, as both the WBA and WBC rank him at number three. He was all set for a shot against WBA champ Derrick Gainer last July, until "Smoke" turned to vapor and pulled out due to a managerial dispute with Roy Jones. There has also been talk of an all-Mexican showdown with WBC champ Morales, and though Gainer would be easier, Morales has certainly been looking beatable lately.

2001 was a great year for Juan Manuel's little brother, Rafael, who upset Mark Johnson in October. In 2002, it should be big brother's turn.

Angel Manfredy

Some guys can never win the big one. Dan Marino, Charles Barkley, and Ted Williams were all great athletes, but they all retired without a championship ring. Some other guys who seem like they can't win the big one, however, finally do. John Elway failed in his first two Super Bowls, then came through twice in the twilight of his career. Goran Ivanisevic was a runner-up three times before he shockingly won Wimbledon as a wild-card entry in 2001. Ray Bourque couldn't win the Stanley Cup for Boston, but he finally did it with Colorado last year.

Angel Manfredy has been the proverbial bridesmaid three times, losing to Floyd Mayweather for the WBC 130-pound belt, to Stevie Johnston for the WBC 135-pound belt, and to Diego Corrales for the IBF junior lightweight title. Otherwise, he's won every fight he's had in the last seven years, including his October '01 bout with previously undefeated can't-miss prospect Julio Diaz. Whether the born-again former "Diablo" deserved that win is subject to debate, but by being at least competitive with Diaz, he proved he's still among the lightweight division's upper echelon.

He's also the number-one contender now to IBF titlist Paul Spadafora. "The Pittsburgh Kid" isn't a bad fighter, but as champions go, he's just about as vulnerable as they come. His style is well-suited to manhandling one-dimensional sluggers such as Israel Cardona and Billy Irwin, but he was lucky to get by against Victoriano Sosa and Mike Griffith, neither of whom are on Manfredy's level. Against a versatile boxer-puncher like Manfredy, Spadafora will be out of his depth. And "The Disciple," as Manfredy now calls himself, will prove more a follower of the Elway example than the Marino model.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Manfredy drills Ivan Robinson with a right

Francisco Bojado

It's not a question of "if" with Francisco Bojado. The only questions are "when" and "against whom." This 18-year-old Mexican Olympian is just too good not to win a world title. Even in the old days of eight divisions with one champion apiece, you would have been pretty safe betting on "Panchito" to be a champ. But nowadays, with twice as many divisions and all of these splintered titles, Bojado is more of a sure thing than Pam Anderson on a glam band's tour bus.

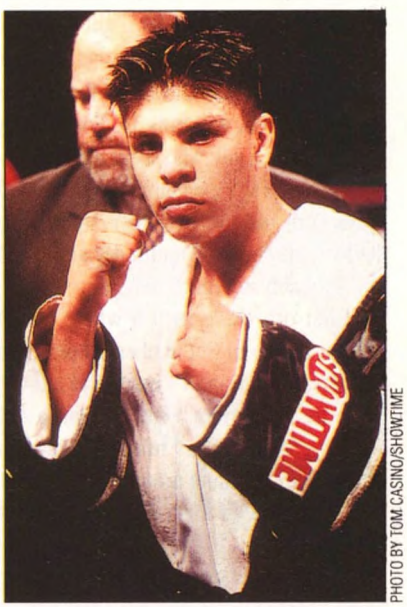


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Bojado, boxing's hottest prospect, will soon be a champ

So when will he go from prospect to champion? Main Events' crown jewel seems to be following the same progression as their previous young sensation, Fernando Vargas, who won a world title in his 15th fight after 21 months as a pro. Bojado was 9-0 (9) as we went to press, having just stepped up to 10-rounders (but finishing them in a round or two), and seems on his way to being a 15-fight veteran by next summer. He turned pro in January '01, so he'll reach the 21-month mark next fall. Unless he's befallen by injury or a shocking upset loss, Bojado is clearly on pace to challenge for a title before the end of '02.

The other question is against whom. Bojado is a lightweight. At 135, the WBA title has barely made it out of Europe or the Orient in recent years, so don't expect Bojado to take aim at current champ Raul Balbi. The IBF title is held by Paul Spadafora, but may well be held by Angel Manfredy by the time Bojado is ready. Either one would be an underdog against Panchito. WBC champ Jose Luis Castillo would be a helluva test, but if Bojado's as good as we think, it's a test he should pass, especially since Castillo's had his share of grueling fights in his career. Whichever belt it is, all signs point toward Bojado having one while he's still a teenager. ■

FOUR FIGHTERS WHO WILL FIGHT FOR THE LAST TIME IN 2002

Ricardo Lopez

On July 25, 2002, one of the greatest little fighters of all-time, Ricardo Lopez, will turn 35. For a heavyweight, 35 isn't such a big deal. But for a guy who spent most of his career at strawweight and is now the world's preeminent junior fly, it's a huge deal. Most little guys burn out by 30. Lopez, amazingly, is still undefeated nearly halfway through his fourth decade. But how much longer can he go on? Probably not much longer.

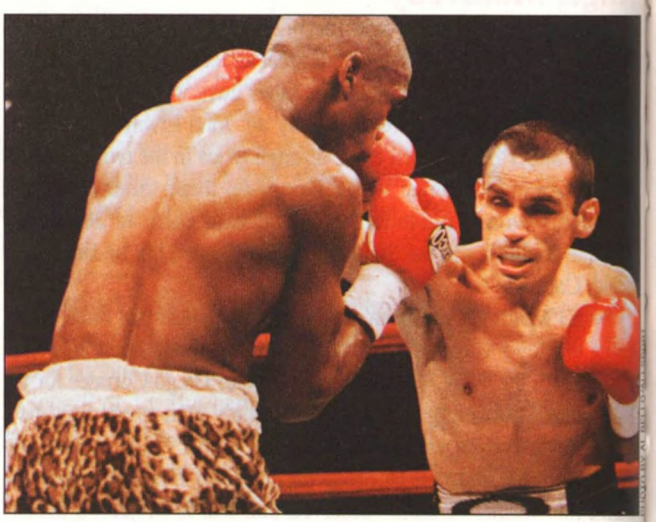
First off, there isn't a whole lot left to fight for. By beating Zolani Petelo in September, Lopez notched his 50th win, surpassing Rocky Marciano's mark and allowing "Finito" the opportunity to retire with more wins without a defeat than any champion in history. Without his historical standing to worry about, you'd think he might hang around for the money, as so many fighters do, but the Mexican marvel's options for big paydays are as slim as his own waist.

One reason Lopez has been contemplating retirement for the last three years is the increasing ease with which he cuts. He was badly gashed in both of his 1998 wars with Rosendo Alvarez, and his '99 fight with Will Grigsby was another blood-letting. He hasn't been cut since, but it's easier to avoid getting sliced open when you fight only once a year, as Lopez has done for the past three years. That pace indicates that either Lopez' recuperative powers aren't what they used to be, or that his ability to get up for fights on a regular basis is waning. Either way, the end is near.

There are really only two meaningful fights out there for Lopez: a move up to 112 pounds to face Eric Morel, or a third fight with Alvarez. Either one could be a loss, or either one could be a great win (and decent paycheck) to go out on. Whoever the opponent is, Lopez will probably fight once more in '02, then sit back and wait for the call from Canastota.

Vinny Paz

Everybody, including Vinny Paz perhaps, knows that it's really over already. It ended in February 2001, when Aaron Davis battered his face into a sickening red mass of cuts and swellings. That was the fight that convinced us all that Paz isn't even a fringe contender anymore.



Lopez puts the pressure on Petelo

And "The Pazmanian Devil" seems to understand that, which is why he's stated a realistic goal for how he'd like to end his career. Paz wants to finish with 50 wins, and, based on his selection of the ordinary Tim Shocks as his most recent opponent, he seems to know what it will take to get there. Paz had 47 wins as we went to press, and it shouldn't be hard for him to squeeze in three more fights against clubfighters in '02, then head for the hills.

The catch is that Paz wants number 50 to come against Dana Rosenblatt, his hated rival whom he kayoed in '96, then dropped a disputed decision to in '99. If that fight comes about, Paz could very easily lose, and have to soldier on a little farther in pursuit of 50 wins. But the belief here is that the fight isn't going to happen because Rosenblatt, who is rated number two by the WBA, has little motive for a rubber match.

Instead Paz will take on a couple of more guys like Shocks in off-TV bouts, then probably convince ESPN2 to buy his farewell fight

Paz was hard to look at after the Davis fight

sometime late in the year. Maybe it's just being optimistic to believe the likable Paz will play it safe and retire on his own terms. But Paz is no dummy. He's 39 years old, and he's not going to want to look like he did after the Davis fight ever again. Paz says he'll stop once he hits 50 wins, and he'll take the path of least resistance to get there in '02.

Arturo Gatti

It will be a sad day, indeed, when Arturo Gatti calls it a career and tells his cutman to hang up the Enswell. It may be years before another fighter comes along who's so inherently dramatic, so dangerous when vulnerable, so all-around exhilarating to watch. But that's a selfish way of looking at things. For the good of Gatti himself, he ought to leave the fight game soon. He's made plenty of money—quite a bit more than his skills alone should have commanded—and there's no sense hanging around until all the bruising fights take a lasting toll.

In the summer of 2000, Gatti's manager, Pat Lynch, said he believed the former IBF junior lightweight champion had about two years left. That was a sound game plan, and nothing has changed since then to persuade Gatti and Lynch not to stick to it. The Canadian slugger got a sweet payday to take Oscar De La Hoya's best shots for five rounds last March, and one more hefty purse is on the table for a possible HBO fight against Micky Ward. If it happens and Gatti loses, then that's the end. If Gatti wins, it qualifies him for one more big fight, perhaps a title try against someone he's a major longshot to beat, and then it's all over. Either way, Gatti will be 30 on April 15, 2002, and that's plenty old enough for a fighter who's been through what he's been through.

And just because he'll be retired, that doesn't mean the fun has to end for Gatti fans. Through the magic of videotape, his fights with Wilson Rodriguez, Ivan Robinson, Gabe Ruelas, etc., can keep us entertained until the next Gatti comes along.

Gatti's days of wading into punches are winding down

Oscar De La Hoya

This one may come as a surprise, since Oscar De La Hoya is still in his physical prime and still has opportunities to make millions upon millions of dollars for the next several years. For most fighters in such a situation, retirement would be an absurd notion. But De La Hoya is not most fighters.

De La Hoya has long stated his intention to get out of boxing by the age of 30. On February 4, 2003, "The Golden Boy" will hit the big three-oh, so 2002 should be his last year as a professional fighter. Sure, the money he can make in boxing is attractive, but he's already made more than he'll ever need, and he can continue to rake in plenty singing and acting (even if he's much better at boxing) without risking physical harm.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

De La Hoya catches Francisco Castillejo with a hook

Oscar recently stated his plan for '02, and it's an ambitious one: He wants to challenge Bernard Hopkins for the undisputed middleweight title on May 5, fight Felix Trinidad in September, and cap off his career by fighting Shane Mosley in December. If he wins all of those fights, according to De La Hoya, he will have accomplished all he wants to in boxing. But, realistically, the odds are heavily against De La Hoya going 3-0 against that crew. He should be the underdog against Hopkins and Mosley, and possibly against Trinidad as well. So his retirement may come even sooner than December, since one more loss—especially if it's a punishing one—would spoil his plans and probably spell the end of his excellent career.

For a fighter who has always done things on his own terms, De La Hoya might not get the final say. But then again, you never know. Either way, whether he walks out or gets pounded out, Oscar is on his way out in 2002. ■

Special Experts' Poll:

WHO WILL BE THE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR IN 2002?

DAN RAFAEL (*USA Today* boxing writer): "One good possibility is Wladimir Klitschko, but the question is whether he can get the fights to help him get there. HBO is high on him, they'll have dates for him, and they'll try to get him good competition. He could conceivably fight guys like Ray Mercer, Lance Whitaker, and David Tua, and do well against all of them. It would be unusual for a guy who's not one of the main beltholders to be named Fighter of the Year, but if he wins three or four quality fights like that, he has a shot. Plus, if he gets his shot at the real heavyweight title, I believe he'd be the favorite against Hasim Rahman, Lennox Lewis, Mike Tyson, whoever it may be.

"Another guy to consider is Floyd Mayweather. He'll probably be moving up to lightweight, and with his alignment with HBO, he could fight Paul Spadafora and Jose Luis Castillo and pick up two portions of the lightweight title in one year. To be Fighter of the Year, you need the right opportunities and you need the ability to win when you get those opportunities. Mayweather should have both in 2002."

Gifted heavyweight Klitschko is a popular choice

EDWARD BROPHY (Executive Director, International Boxing Hall Of Fame): "One fighter in a great position to capitalize on a couple of major fights in 2002 is Oscar De La Hoya. A possible matchup with rival Fernando Vargas and rematches with conquerors Felix Trinidad and Shane Mosley put De La Hoya in position to feature in some of the most attractive bouts of 2002. If "The Golden Boy" notches victories in any of these marquee bouts, especially with either man who defeated him, Trinidad and Mosley, he will stand out as the leading contender for Fighter of the Year honors."

JAMES LEIJA (lightweight contender): "I think it's between two fighters. The one with the best shot might be Mike Tyson, because it looks like he's going to fight for the heavyweight title, and I believe he'll beat Lennox Lewis or Hasim Rahman, whichever one has the title. I also like Floyd Mayweather's chances. He's moving up to 135, he's probably going to challenge Jose Luis Castillo, and I think he'll beat him. Certainly, Floyd would beat either of the other champions at lightweight."

KEVIN IOLE (*Las Vegas Review-Journal* boxing writer): "It will surprise a lot of people, but I'm going with Oscar De La Hoya. I think he's going to have two big wins in 2002, beating both Fernando Vargas and Felix Trinidad to reestablish himself as one of the top fighters in the world."

BERNARD FERNANDEZ (*Philadelphia Daily News* boxing writer): "I'm going with Marco Antonio Barrera. At some point next year, it will be economically feasible to again pair him against either Erik Morales or Prince Naseem Hamed, or both. He beat both guys the first time, regardless of the judges' decision in the Morales fight, and he'll beat both guys the second time. Barrera seems to have caught a good career second wind, and I expect 2002 to be a big year for him."

CHRIS THORNE (*Newark Star-Ledger* boxing writer): "I thought about a few guys, but I kept coming back to the same one: Sugar Shane Mosley. He had a slow year in 2001, but I think he's gonna step it up now and not leave any doubt about who's the best fighter, pound-for-pound. It's time for him to get back into the flow and have some big fights."

MARK BEIRO (ring announcer): "Two fighters come to my mind: Roy Jones and Floyd Mayweather. Jones will have two very meaningful fights in the upcoming months that will re-introduce to fight fans the reasons why he is boxing's best pound-for-pound. Bernard Hopkins and Dariusz Michalczewski will both face Jones, but he is just too fast and too strong and will make them look mediocre. They're not, of course. Jones is just that good.

"Mayweather will also have an excellent year, as he will clean out his division and the next one he steps into. But pressed to choose, I like Jones as the Fighter of the Year for 2002."

TIM SMITH (New York *Daily News* boxing writer and Showtime roving reporter): "I think 2002 could be a really big year for Oscar De La Hoya. It might seem like an odd pick because he's been on a slide the last couple of years, but there are a lot of big fights for him at 154, and he'll have an opportunity to regain the status he once had. Guys like Shane Mosley, Fernando Vargas, Bernard Hopkins, and Felix Trinidad are all lining up to fight him, and I think those fights are going to bring out the best in him. It's been a long time since we've seen Oscar in a big fight with a good corner, but now with Floyd Mayweather Sr., he could be properly motivated and he could finally reach his potential."

PHOTO BY HOLLY STEIN/HBO

A lot of folks are picking De La Hoya, seen here battering Arturo Gatti

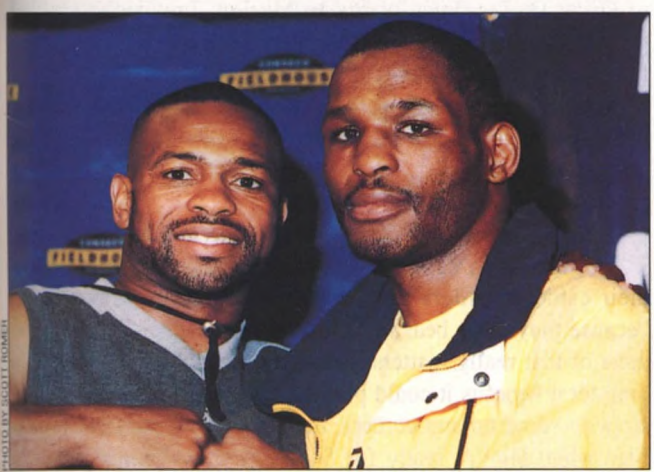


PHOTO BY SCOTT HOMEL

If Jones meets and defeats Hopkins, he could be Fighter of the Year

RICH MAROTTA (FOX SportsNet boxing analyst): "Wladimir Klitschko. I think the WBO heavyweight champion is very much the real deal, and I expect him to beat a top contender early in the year, then defeat one of the other heavyweight champions."

BOB PAPA (ESPN2 *Friday Night Fights* blow-by-blow announcer): "I have to go with Sugar Shane Mosley, and the reason why is that, as long as he doesn't go beyond 154 pounds, there are so many possibilities for big fights that he should win. It looks like he's staying at welter for another fight, and he's going to make hay there, and then there will be one or two big fights for him later in the year, probably at junior middle. It could be Trinidad, or Vargas, or De La Hoya. This is the year when Mosley finally steps up his competition consistently throughout the year, and as long as he stays away from Bernard Hopkins at 160, he should do very well." ■

10 BURNING QUESTIONS FOR 2002

1

Will Mike Tyson be next to challenge for the heavyweight title?

Regardless of who reigns atop the heavyweight division at the start of 2002—Hasim Rahman or Lennox Lewis—the most logical opponent for the champion's first defense of the new year is Tyson. "Iron Mike" brings the money, the prestige, and the vulnerability that every champion seeks in a challenger. Plus, defending against Tyson satisfies the WBC's mandatory demands. For Rahman or Lewis, it's a no-brainer.

Tyson, however, said after disposing of Brian Nielsen that he wanted two more fights to get ready, a timetable that would make challenging for the title in the first half of '02 all but impossible. As we went to press, Tyson was close to wrapping up a deal for the first of those fights, a January bout, possibly against Ray Mercer. But even if that fight happens, there will be no second tuneup. Tyson will have his chance to become a three-time champion sometime in the spring, and he'll take the opportunity when it's presented to him.

2

Will Sugar Ray Leonard emerge as a major promotional force?

SRL Boxing has almost everything a newly born promotional outfit needs to make an immediate splash. With Hall of Famer Leonard's name and face plastered everywhere, they have a built-in draw, a promoter who can get more attention than any other, except maybe Don King. They also have a one-show-a-month TV deal with ESPN2, and we all know that you need TV connections to make money in boxing these days. The only thing they don't have is a superstar fighter under the SRL banner; Angel Manfredy is about as close as they come right now. Until SRL lands a major star with a name that sells pay-per-views, Leonard and partner Bjorn Rebney's company will not stand shoulder to shoulder with DKP or Top Rank. But they will continue to lay the groundwork in '02 to possibly emerge as a serious threat to the top guns another year or two down the line.

3

Will Felix Trinidad make a successful comeback?

Trinidad went from arguably the greatest fighter in the world on September 29 to possibly a used-up fighter on September 30. The beatdown "Tito" received from Bernard Hopkins at Madison Square Garden was absolutely brutal, so physically, there are question marks. Hopkins also confirmed that Trinidad can be beaten with movement and boxing, so there may be others who can follow the same blueprint in the future. And it's anybody's guess whether Trinidad can recapture his confidence. All that being said, the man is only 28 years old, and he still hits like a cannon blast. If he's thrown in immediately with Hopkins, or Oscar De La Hoya, or Shane Mosley, Trinidad's comeback could easily be short-lived. But with a couple of easier fights first, and with some hard work to improve on the shortcomings exposed by Hopkins, Trinidad should remain on the pound-for-pound listings for a few more years.

Will "Tito" recover from his loss to Hopkins?

4

Will *ShoBox* survive the year?

No, the fights haven't been great. No, people aren't calling their cable providers by the millions to order Showtime just because they can't bear to miss another episode of *ShoBox*. But none of that really matters. Jay Larkin launched *ShoBox* for the long-term benefits it could possibly reap: making viewers familiar with some up-and-comers, thus increasing the fighters' profiles when they're ready for *Showtime Championship Boxing*. Unlike HBO's *KO Nation*, *ShoBox* wasn't meant as a wild

experiment that had to stand on its own, and unlike *KO Nation*, *ShoBox* isn't about to get the axe. With its modest budget, *ShoBox* will be around at least until today's prospects are full-fledged contenders and the show's impact, or lack thereof, can be determined.

5

Where will Floyd Mayweather's relationship with his father stand at year's end?

A look into the crystal ball reveals yet another tumultuous year for boxing's most compelling father-son combo: In mid-winter, the Mayweathers will reconcile; in late-winter, tensions between Floyd Sr. and Uncle Roger will cause "Little Floyd" to give Dad the boot again and to make him return all the clothes he bought on his son's credit card; in the spring, Roger will be kicked off Team Mayweather, and the Floyds will reconcile, with Pops being re-hired as trainer; in the summer, tensions between Floyd Sr. and manager James Prince will boil over, and Papa Floyd will be axed again; in early-fall, with Emanuel Steward training "Pretty Boy," the Floyds will share a tearful embrace after the younger Mayweather wins a piece of the light-weight title; in late-fall, Floyd Sr. will publicly call Steward a bum in an effort to convince his son to rehire him as trainer, and at year's end, the Mayweathers won't be on speaking terms. The more things change ...

6

Will any members of the 2000 U.S. Olympic team win world titles?

Sadly, there are no Floyd Mayweathers on this team, and there might not be any Fernando Vargases or David Reids either. The guy with the most upside is junior welterweight Ricardo Williams Jr., but with all the talent packed into that weight range, Lou DiBella isn't going to rush "Slick Ricky" into anything. Same goes for middleweight Jermain Taylor. If any U.S. Olympian gets a title shot in 2002, it'll be super middleweight Jeff Lacy, who is coming along quickly and competes in a weak division. On the whole, though, this team will continue to look as mediocre as they did in Sydney, and don't be surprised if a couple more of them lose their unbeaten records in '02.

PHOTO BY ANN SANDERS

Where is Ali's career headed?

7

Does Naseem Hamed really want to fight anymore?

It sure doesn't seem like it. Hamed was never shy on the way up, but suddenly he's made himself as scarce as the woolly mammoth. He pulled out of a November fight in London, puzzlingly citing the terrorist attacks in America as the reason. Hamed never made a move to secure a rematch with the man who whipped him last April, Marco Antonio Barrera, and his people refused to fight the unspectacular Mbulelo Botile in his comeback fight. Yes, Hamed will return to the ring in early-2002. But the desire to be a great fighter is gone. His comeback will either fizzle out quickly, or stretch on for years against primarily meaningless opposition, a la Hector Camacho.

8

Do any first-year eligibles have a shot at getting elected to the International Boxing Hall of Fame?

While the Class of 2003 will have a sure thing in George Foreman (assuming he doesn't start fighting again first), the Class of 2002 only has one new guy on the ballot, and he's no guarantee to get voted in. Three-division former champ Jeff Fenech has some nice credentials: winning a piece of the bantamweight title in his seventh pro fight, moving up and winning belts at 122 and 126, and deserving to win a title at 130, only to get a screwjob draw in his first fight with the great Azumah Nelson. But on the downside, once Nelson kayoed him in the rematch, Fenech, just 27 at the time, was finished. The guess here is that the Aussie will make it to Canastota eventually, but he'll probably fall just short on his first try.

9

Will Laila Ali's star continue to rise?

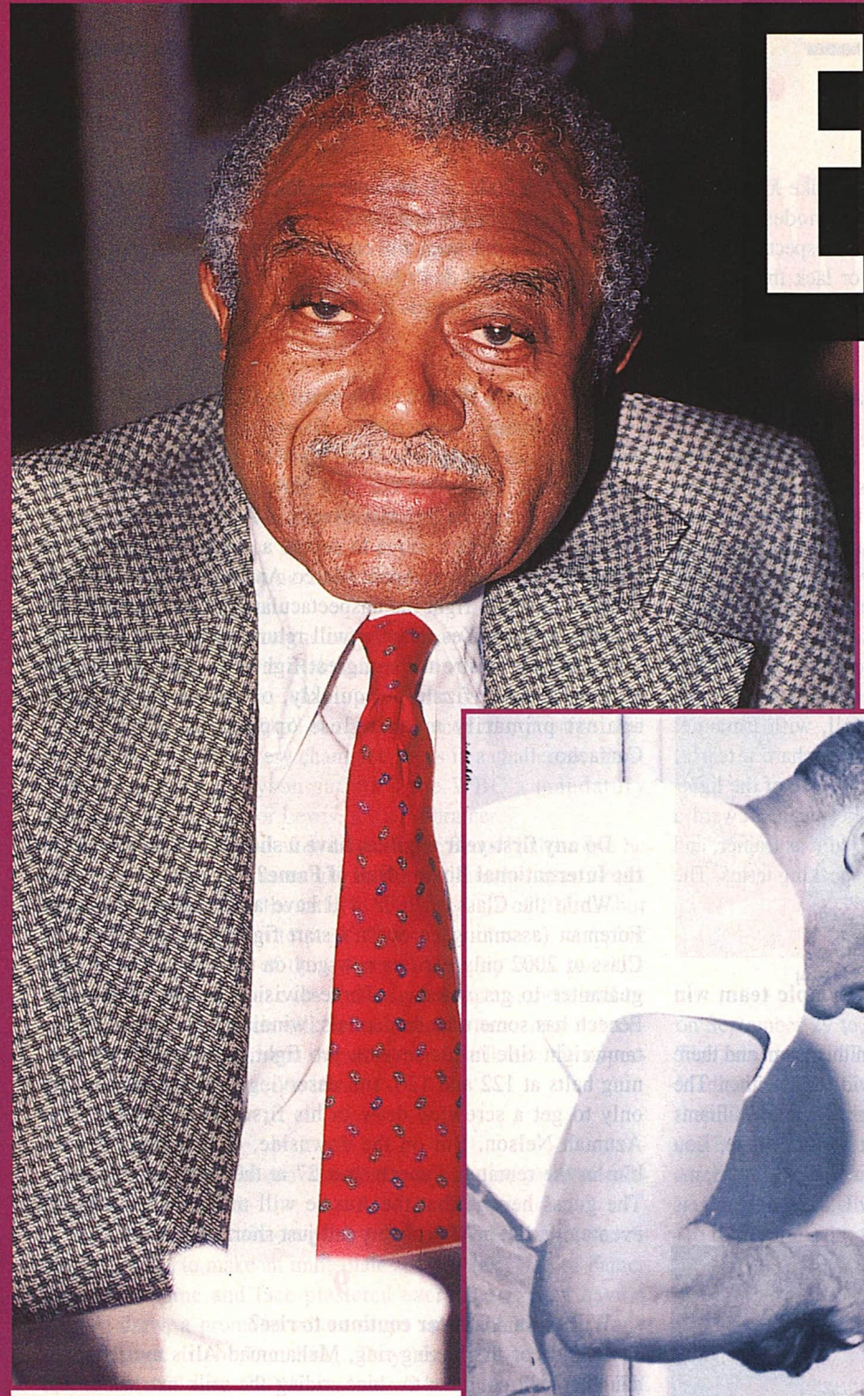
Outside of the boxing ring, Muhammad Ali's most famous daughter will continue to shine, riding the milk mustaches and acting opportunities to ample fame and fortune. But inside the ring, what else is there for her to do? A rematch with Jacqui Frazier-Lyde or a bout with Freeda Foreman would be good for publicity, but neither would prove anything. Otherwise, there are no female super middleweights of note and no titles of value, so Ali's boxing career, unfortunately, seems destined to bog down in the immediate future.

10

Will Roy Jones get a Grammy nomination?

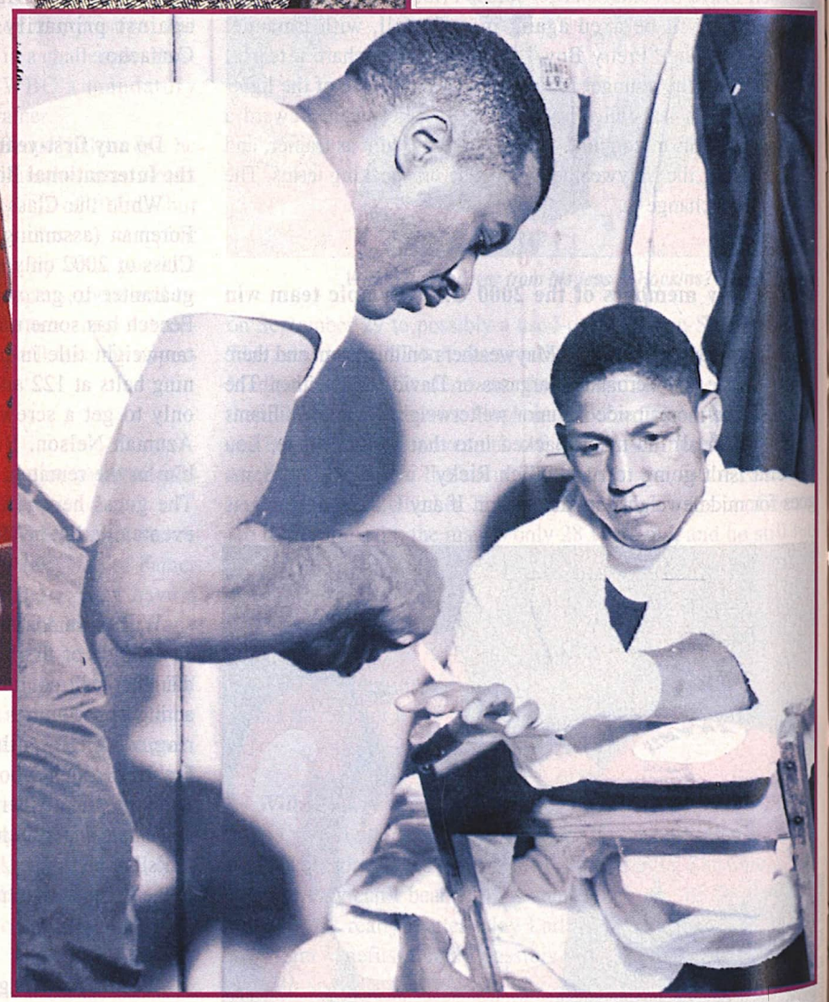
There's a better chance that he'll get kayoed by a WBA mandatory challenger. ■

EDDIE FUTCH (1911-2001)



A Tribute To "The Wisest Man In Boxing"

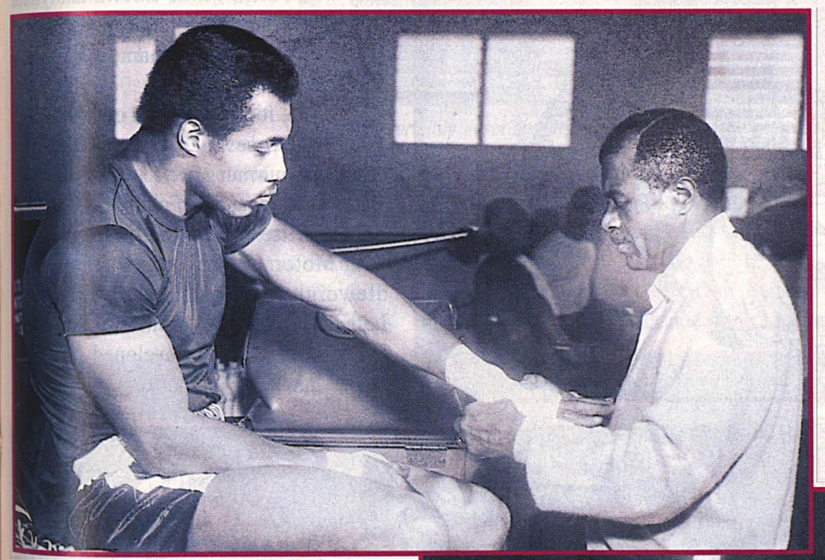
That never happened to boxing's Eddie Futch, whose death at 90 on October 10 was cause for great mourning in the sport in which the diminutive trainer stood out for almost 70 years, not only as one of the most insightful and thoughtful teachers in ring history, but also as a rare beacon of integrity and civility. What the late Red Smith wrote of another towering figure in baseball history, Branch



A young Futch prepares welterweight Don Jordan for a sparring session in 1959. Jordan, who the trainer said "could absorb anything you could teach him," was Futch's first world champion.

By Pete Ehrmann

When pioneer baseball magnate Connie Mack died at age 94 in 1956, it was said that he was a victim of the cruelest of fates because he'd outlived his own generation, and therefore, was viewed by the ones that succeeded him as merely a befuddled antique with nothing useful left to contribute to his game.



Master tactician Futch knew how to beat Muhammad Ali and was in the opposite corner when first Joe Frazier, then Ken Norton (pictured) handed The Greatest his first two defeats. Later, Futch showed his humane side by refusing to allow a badly battered Smokin' Joe to come out for the final round against Ali in "The Thrilla In Manila."

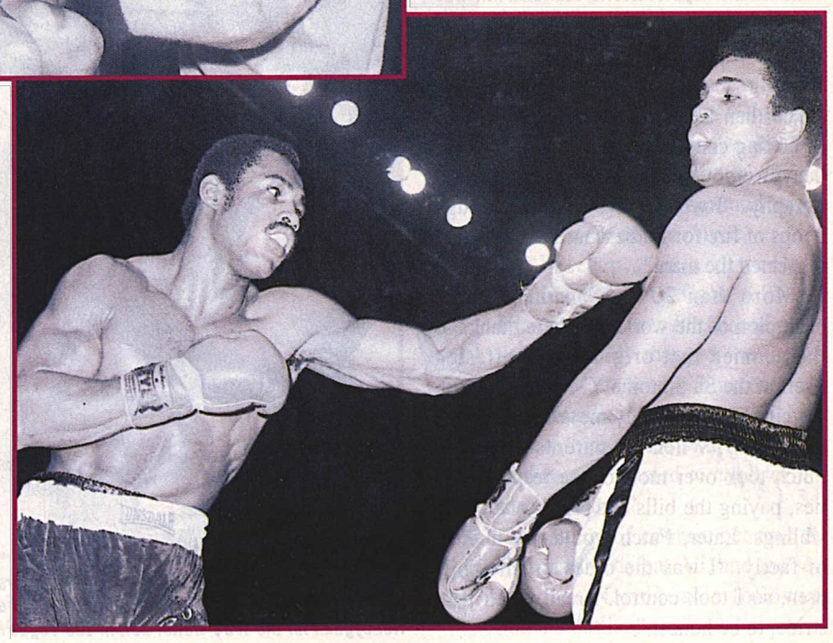
Rickey—"To respect him is as easy as breathing"—applies as well to the Mississippi native who quietly worked the vineyards of boxing for almost 30 years before even some stalwart boxing folks became aware of the gem in their midst.

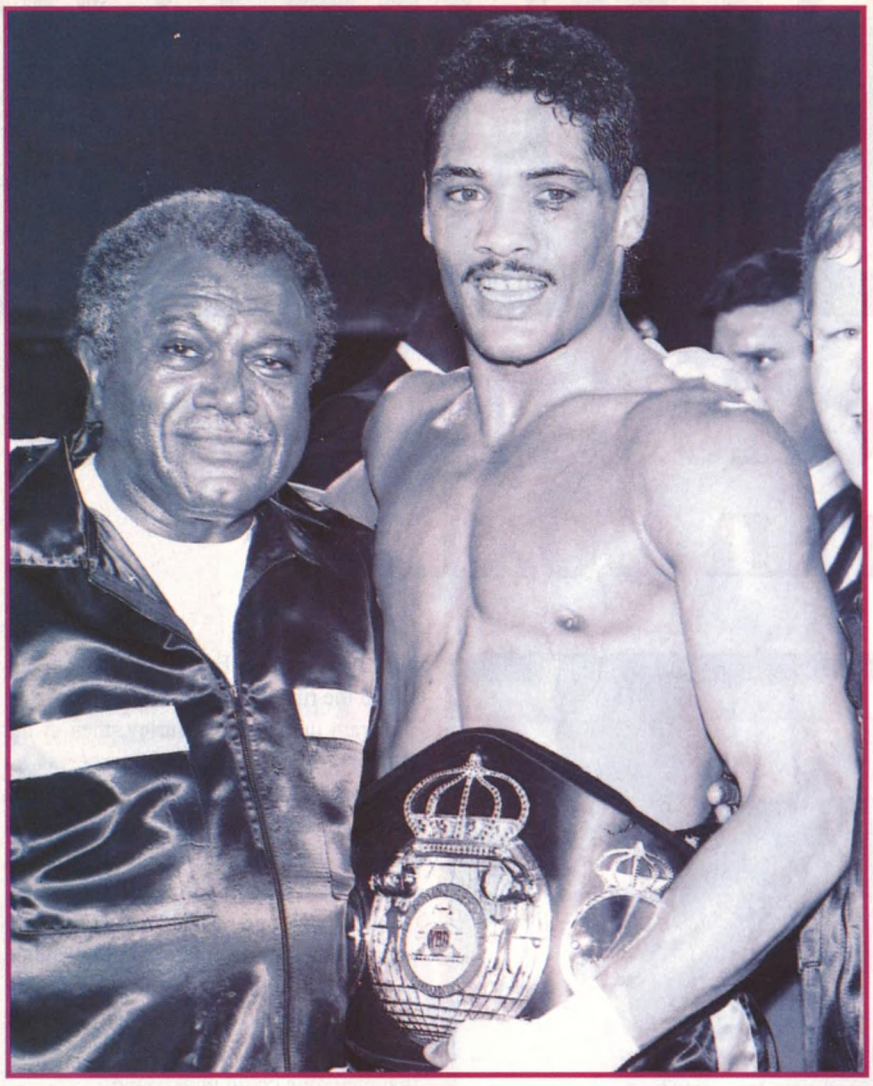
"Three trainers now stand at the top of their trade," wrote *Sports Illustrated's* Mark Kram in 1975, mentioning Angelo Dundee, Gil Clancy, "and Eddie Futch, who handles Joe Frazier and once salvaged the ruin that was Ken Norton."

Kram quoted Jack Hurley, then at the end of his own legendary career as an incomparable ring strategist: "If I had a good one now, a young one now, there's only one man I'd have to have, and that's Eddie Futch. The man's a master."

A lot of good young ones got better paying attention to Futch, who attributed his success with fighters to his lifelong ability to "break down moves into their component parts and reassemble them so that everyone could understand."

"I learned more in my two years with





Futch poses with Virgil Hill moments after Hill won the WBA light heavyweight title with a fourth-round kayo of Leslie Stewart. Hill was one of a cluster of fighters Futch helped win world titles in the 1980s and '90s.

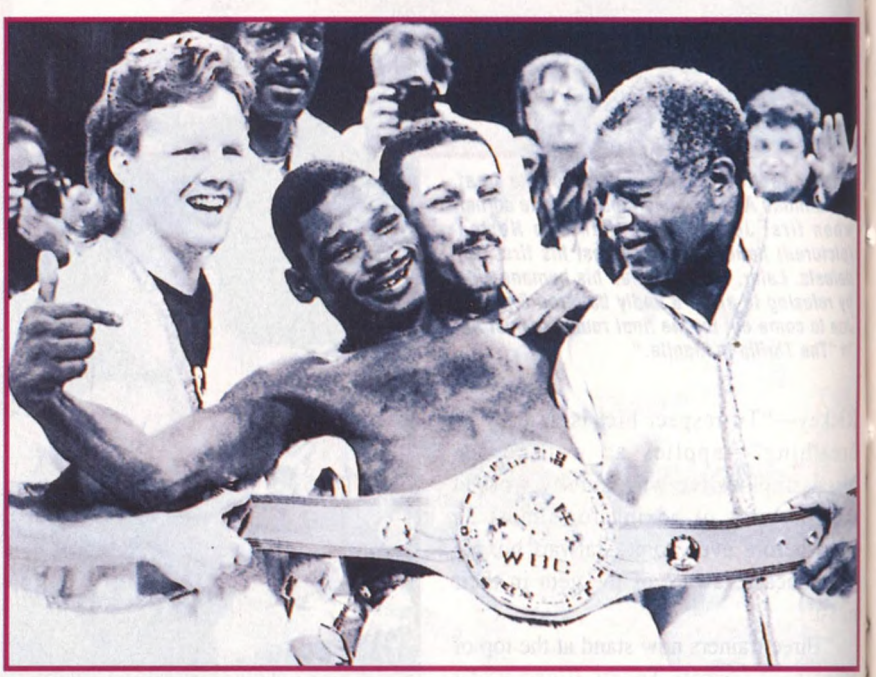
The first live fight he ever saw involved former middleweight champion Tiger Flowers, but Futch, a talented semi-pro basketball player in spite of his mere 5'7", didn't give the ring a try himself until lured into a basement gym at the "Y" by a friend when he was 20. Only a lightweight, Futch became a regular sparring partner for another Detroit amateur who passed his house on the way to the gym at the Brewster Community Center, where Futch signed on and eventually went on to oversee the amateur program.

Joe Louis didn't much impress Futch at first. "He used to struggle to win our club championship, that's how many good fighters we had," Futch later recalled. But the future "Brown Bomber" prepared for the role by working out regularly with Futch, whose shrewd analytical skills even then were more than a match for the heavyweight-champion-to-be's burgeoning fistic ones.

In 1936, forced for good onto the other side of the ropes by a doctor's diagnosis of a heart murmur after 37 wins and three losses as an amateur, Futch began to take his expertise on the road. He travelled with Motor City fighters such as middleweight Jimmy Edgar, lightweight Luther Burgess, and welterweight Lester Felton, all of whom developed into contenders under his guidance.

Eddie than I did in all of my other years of boxing combined," wrote former WBC heavyweight titlist Norton in his autobiography. "I would have jumped through hoops of fire for Eddie; that's how much I respected the man."

More than 20 men on the rolls as champion of the world got there thanks to the acumen that originally manifested itself at the St. Antoine YMCA in Detroit, the city Futch's family moved to when he was a boy. When his parents divorced, Futch took over most of the responsibilities, paying the bills and looking after his siblings. Later, Futch would say matter-of-factly, "I was the oldest of the children, so I took control. I really took it in stride, to be honest."



Futch has brought the best out in some fighters who didn't always want to listen to his advice, including Marlon Starling, pictured with Futch and co-trainer Freddie Roach after beating Lloyd Honeyghan for the WBC welter belt in Las Vegas in 1989.

The fights were usually the easiest part for the African-Americans who covered their ground by automobile, often traversing regions historically inhospitable to "their kind."

"I took pains to avoid trouble," Futch told Scottish boxing writer Hugh McIlvanney, "but I had a special box of Kleenex clipped above the sun visor just in case. It was a narrow box that wouldn't attract attention if the cops searched the car, but under three or four layers of tissue was a .25 automatic. You had to give yourself some chance if things got really bad."

A move to Los Angeles in the early-'50s brought new fighters into Futch's orbit, and in fact, he became such a magnet for knowledge-hungry boxers, Futch recollected to San Francisco boxing scribe Jack Fiske that the other managers "tried to run me out of the gym." Backed by Jackie McCoy, another outstanding West Coast manager/trainer, Futch prevailed and "soon I became the most sought after trainer in L.A."

"Dignity" certainly describes the way with which Futch always conducted himself. Sadly, the same could not be said for former heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe, who fell on bad times when he strayed from Futch's guidance.

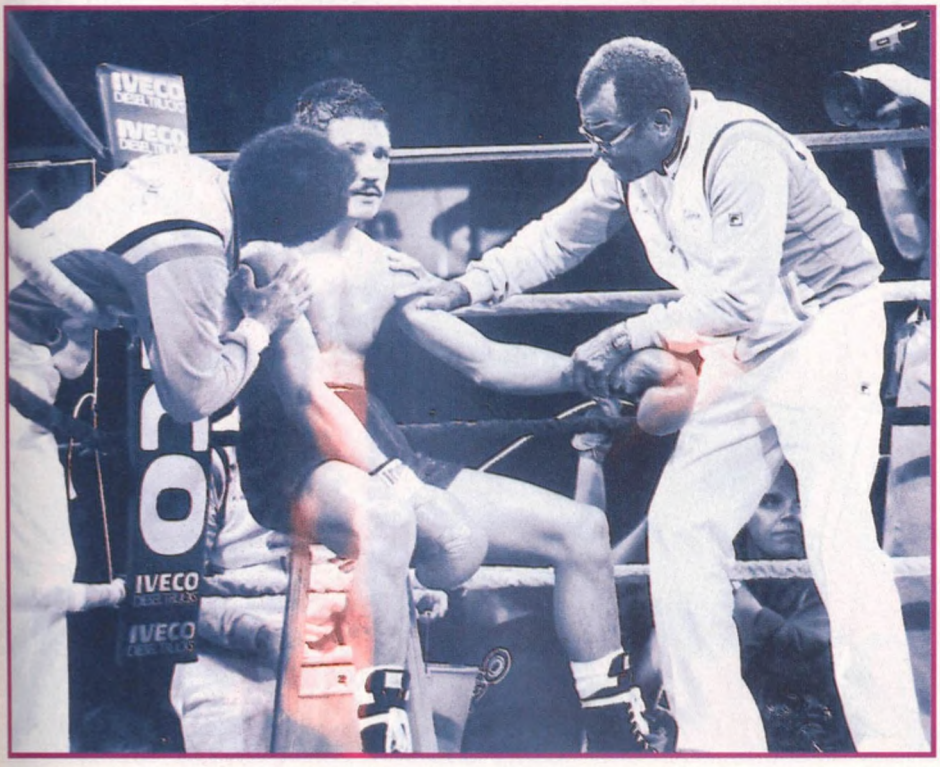
His first champion was Don Jordan, whom Futch literally rescued from abandonment and starvation in Mexico City in 1957. After finding out that Jordan "could absorb anything you could teach him," Futch went to work, and a year later Jordan was on top of the 147-pound heap.

"The kick was in seeing talent and having the chance to develop it," Futch told writer Phil Berger. "It was like polishing a raw stone to bring out the luster and brilliance."

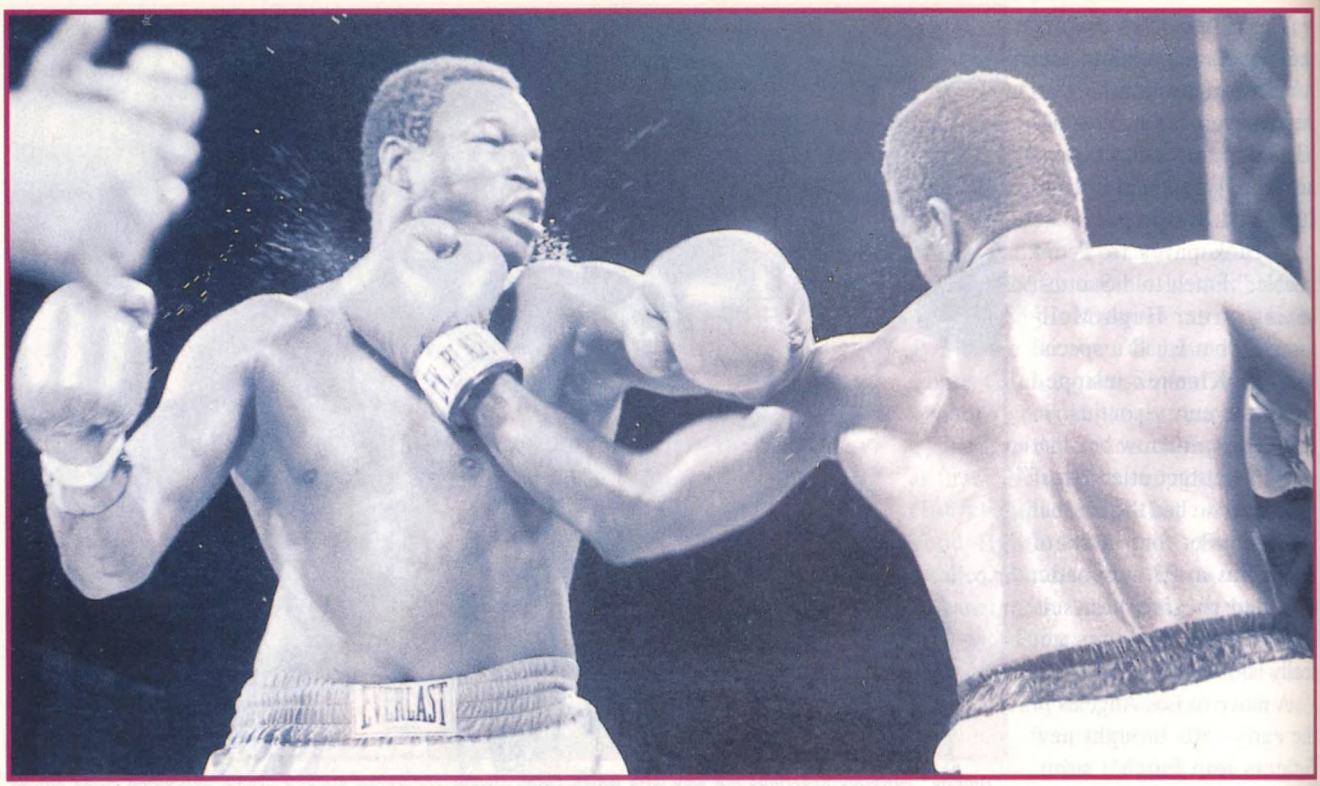
That's what Futch did with a left-hooking Philadelphia slaughterhouse worker when manager Yank Durham brought Joe Frazier to him in 1966, when Smokin' Joe was aiming to smudge the incandescence of the sun around whom the boxing world revolved.

"Futch played a key role in making Frazier a fighter," wrote Kram in a *Sports Illustrated* piece, "and carefully mapped the tactics. For years, he would think of a way to dismantle Muhammad Ali, who was to him a rare and fascinating bird that he wanted to cage for one long moment."

Frazier, of course, became the first man to defeat Ali, and the second was Norton, also following Futch's outline.



After Alexis Arguello was knocked out by Aaron Pryor in 1982, he blamed Futch for overtraining him. But when the media rushed to the trainer's defense, Arguello quickly apologized.



Futch trained both Larry Holmes and Michael Spinks (right), but when 175-pound champ Spinks moved up and successfully challenged Holmes for the heavyweight title in 1985, Futch's sense of fair play would not allow him to work with either man.

"Technically, Ali was more limited than a lot of fighters on the scene," Futch would later explain. "For me, his style was simple ... He did the same thing over and over again. He did it very well, but I couldn't see him doing it against my fighters."

What Jordan once called "the Futch Touch" went beyond tactics and pedagogy. A highly literate and articulate man whose taste in literature ran to early English poets, Futch practiced a humaneness toward his fighters not often associated with the popular idea of a cornerman. Most notably demonstrated when Futch kept Frazier from coming out for the last round of "The Thrilla In Manila" ("Sit down, son ... No one will ever forget what you did here tonight."), it was also reflected in the fact that almost all the boxers handled by Futch called him "Dad."

Through the last three decades of the 20th century, when other people his age in less demanding professions were sprinting into retirement, Futch's imprint on boxing history was indelibly stamped on the other champions he trained: heavyweights Larry Holmes, Michael Spinks, Trevor Berbick, and Riddick Bowe; cruiserweight Marvin Camel; light heavyweights Bob Foster,

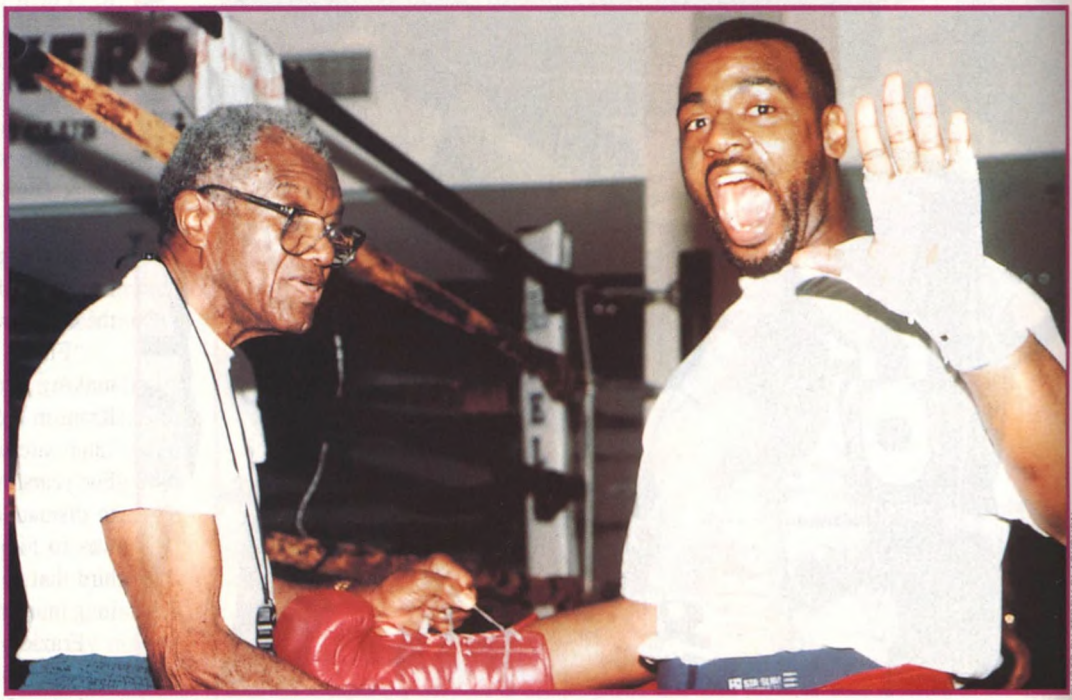


PHOTO BY TEDDY BLACKBURN

The last man Futch led to a world title was Montell Griffin, in 1997. Futch mapped out the fight plan that allowed Griffin to frustrate the best fighter in the world at the time, Roy Jones, into getting himself disqualified.

Virgil Hill, Mike McCallum, and Montell Griffin; welterweights Marlon Starling, Hedgemon Lewis, and Maurice Blocker; junior welterweights Leroy Haley and Bruce Curry; lightweight Alexis Arguello; featherweight Antonio Gomez; and bantamweight Wayne McCullough.

Not all of them will someday join Futch in the International Boxing Hall of Fame, his induction into which in 1994 was one of the many honors that came as Futch's career finally wound down with the old millennium. Earlier, long chapters on him had been included in two excellent books published in 1991, Dave Anderson's *In The Corners: Great Boxing Trainers Talk About Their Art*, and *Corner Men: Great Boxing Trainers* by Ronald K. Fried.

Anderson introduced his segment on Futch with a poignant scene in which Starling walked away in the middle of a lesson the trainer was trying to impart, but returned upon being gently reminded that, "Some good fighters listened."

Writers and fans continued to pilgrimage to Las Vegas after Futch's retirement there to counsel with "the wisest man in boxing" (McIlvanney), "The Power Behind The Throne" (*Boxing Monthly*), and "arguably the greatest trainer in boxing history" (THE RING). The unexpected news of his passing was prominently featured in newspapers and other media that nowadays usually relegate anything to do with boxing to the agate type section when mentioning it at all.

That undoubtedly would have pleased the man himself. Futch, like many short of stature, self-made men, had an ego that came through in interviews, particularly when he was, with his commanding diction and precise usage ("As he speaks," wrote Fried, "he seems to consciously strain to avoid ending his sentences with prepositions"), setting the record straight after one of his former charges became estranged from him. Futch didn't even need to waste much breath in that regard after Arguello blamed the trainer for overtraining him for the first Aaron Pryor fight in 1982, which Arguello lost by knockout. The media rushed to Futch's defense so quickly and loudly that a chastened Arguello immediately apologized.

Like Arguello and Norton, the thinking prodigals eventually returned to the fold, reconciling with the father-figure about whom Futch's own daughter, Yvonne, once delivered the ultimate accolade: "I'd wish my dad on anybody."

Boxing in general and especially the fighters he handled were lucky indeed to have the quiet genius whose presence made the sport a little less like a runaway circus and a lot more like the dignified, university-level corners he superintended. To Eddie Futch, peer of Jack Blackburn and Charlie Goldman, it all came down to one thing: "Control, that's the word. Control of the fighter. Control of yourself." ■

Pete Ehrmann is a freelance writer from West Allis, Wisconsin, and a regular contributor to this magazine.

BACK ISSUES OF KO

Back issues of several editions of *KO Magazine,* the acknowledged leader in boxing journalism, are still available in limited quantity. Since its inception in 1980, *KO* has become known for its quality stories and columns and peak-action photographs. Don't delay. Supplies are running out!

June 1983: WBA Jr. Middleweight Champion Davey Moore: Bracing For Duran's Last Stand. Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Pinklon Thomas. Also: Duran-Cuevas, Hagler-Sibson.

Aug. 1983: Michael Spinks: King Of The Light Heavyweights ... But The Glory Can't Erase The Sadness. Color Pinup: Johnny Bumphus. Interview: Jones & Rappaport. Also: Jones-McCrory, Pryor-Arguello II preview, world's best fighter poll, Jeff Chandler, Mark Breland, Leon Spinks.

Oct. 1983: Is Larry Holmes Finished? Color Pinup: Greg Page. Interview: Marvis Frazier. Also: Marvin Hagler, Bobby Chacon, Jack Dempsey.

Aug. 1984: WBC Heavyweight Champion Terrible Tim Witherspoon: A Superstar Of Tomorrow? Color Pinup: Rocky Lockridge. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Marvin Hagler, Gomez-LaPorte.

Oct. 1984: Golden Boy Mark Breland: Can He Be The Next Sugar Ray? Color Pinup: Jaime Garza. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Bramble-Mancini, Sugar Ray Leonard.

Nov. 1984: Thomas Hearns: "Hagler Is Shakin' Like A Leaf On A Tree!" Color Pinup: Tim Witherspoon. Interview: Livingstone Bramble. Also: Rosario-Davis, Marlon Starling.

Jan. 1985: The Wide-Open Heavyweight Division: Who Will Take Control? Color Pinup: Bill Costello. Interview: Tyrone Crawley. Also: Harry Arroyo, Curry-Pryor, Barry McGuigan.

Feb. 1985: Gerry Cooney: How Far Can He Go This Time? Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Ray Mancini. Also: Dream fights, Hector Camacho.

March 1985: Next For Marvelous Marvin Hagler: The Only Fight That Really Matters. Color pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Thomas Hearns. Also: Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza, Holmes-Bonecrusher.

May 1985: Thomas Hearns: KO Fighter Of The Year. Color Pinup: Gerry Cooney. Also: Camacho-Ramirez, Truth Williams, Year In Review.

July 1985: Aaron Pryor: Has Hawk Time Run Out? Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Greg Page. Also: Ray Mancini, James Shuler, Costello-Hatcher.

Aug. 1985: King Cobra: "Hagler-Hearns Is Done And I'm Better Than Both Of Them!" Color Pinup: John Mugabi. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Larry Holmes, Roberto Duran, DeWitt-Lee.

Dec. 1985: Pinklon Thomas: "Larry Holmes Betrayed Boxing." Color Pinup: Hagler-Mugabi. Also: Mike McCallum, Tyrell Biggs, Camacho-Ramirez.

Jan. 1986: Macho Mania! Hector Camacho Takes Aim At 10 Tough Targets. Color Pinup: Jimmy Paul. Interview: Alexis Arguello. Also: Truth Williams, Curry-McCrory.

July 1986: Tyson, McGuigan, Hagler: The Stars Catch Fire And Boxing Is Hot Again! Color Pinup: Azumah Nelson. Also: Camacho-Chavez.

Dec. 1986: Larry Holmes' Message To Mike Tyson: "Show Me You Can Kick My Butt!" Color pinup: Mark Breland. Interview: Holmes. Plus: Witherspoon-Bruno, Evander Holyfield, Cruz-McGuigan, Danny Lopez.

Feb. 1987: Upset Of The Decade: Has Honeyghan Cut Short The Curry Era? Color Pinup: Marvin Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Edwin Rosario, Hector Camacho.

Aug. 1987: Sweet Victory! Sugar Ray Humbles Hagler. Color Pinup: Leonard vs. Hagler. Interview: Evander Holyfield. Also: Spinks-Cooney preview, Donald Curry.

Oct. 1987: Greatness Beckons: When Will Mike Tyson Answer The Call? Color Pinup: Michael Olajide. Interview: Tyrell Biggs. Also: Paz-Haugen, Marvin Hagler.

Nov. 1987: Michael Spinks: The War With Tyson Is Okay With Him. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Frankie Duarte. Also: Matthew Hilton, Hagler-Czyz.

Dec. 1987: Mike Tyson: Undisputed Heavyweight King-But Is He Losing His Loyal Subjects? Color Pinup: Matthew Hilton. Interview: Barry McGuigan. Also: Aaron Pryor, Mike McCallum.

Jan. 1988: The Collapse Of A Hero: Why Breland Never Hit The Mark Of Greatness. Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Michael Nunn, Alexis Arguello, lightweights.

Feb. 1988: Pazienza & Haugen Go For Each Other's Throats. Color Pinup: Marlon Starling. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Tate-Olajide, ESPN Boxing.

May 1988: KO Exclusive-Mike Tyson, As Only Mike Tyson Knows Him. Color Pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Thomas Hearns. Also: Tyson-Spinks Poll, Michael Dokes, Virgil Hill.

July 1988: Superfight History Dictates: Don't Expect The Expected From Tyson-Spinks. Color Pinup: Roger Mayweather. Interview: Dr. Ferdie Pacheco. Also: Roberto Duran, Azumah Nelson, Barkley-Olajide.

Aug. 1988: Tyson-Spinks: KO's Fearless Forecast Of Superfight '88. Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Matthew Hilton. Also: Lockridge-Knight, Evander Holyfield, Lloyd Honeyghan.

Sept. 1988: Tyson-Spinks, The Aftermath—What If Tyson Wins; What If Spinks Wins? Color Pinup: Frank Tate. Interview: Marlon Starling. Also: Barry McGuigan, Simon Brown, risk-taking.

Oct. 1988: Middleweight Terrorism: Iran Bombs The Hit Man. Color Pinup: Don Lalonde. Interview: Frank Bruno. Also: Roger Mayweather, Marvin Hagler.

Jan. 1989: The Troubled Times Of Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Lloyd Honeyghan. Interview: Gil Clancy. Also: Meldrick Taylor, Jeff Fenech, Boxing's Champs.

Feb. 1989: George Foreman Is Born Again. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Bill Cayton. Also: The Olympics, Davey Hilton, John Mugabi, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1989: "I Beat Up Tyson Before, I'll Do It Again," by Carl Williams. Color Pinup: Michael Nunn. Also: Chavez-Mayweather, Brian Mitchell, Marv Albert.

Nov. 1989: The Real Duran; The Stories Behind The Legend. Color Pinup: Orlando Canizales. Interview: Mike Trainer. Also: Edwin Rosario, Rosi-Van Horn.

Feb. 1990: George Foreman Risks A Multimillion-Dollar Shot At Tyson. Color Pinup: Brian Mitchell. Interview: Riddick Bowe. Also: Simon Brown, Molina-Lopez, East vs. West.

May 1990: Chavez vs. Taylor: The Best Matchup In The Last Five Years. Color Pinup: Daniel Zaragoza. Interview: Pernell Whitaker. Also: Leonard-Hearns, Glenn McCrory, Prince Charles Williams.

June 1990: A Sugar-Free Future? Thomas Hearns Is Looking Up. Color Pinup: Glenn McCrory. Interview: Michael Moorer. Also: Matthew Hilton, Molina-Suarez, Foreman-Cooney, Camacho-Paz.

July 1990: KO Interview-Sugar Ray Leonard. Color Pinup: Jorge Paez. Also: Michael Nunn, Buster Douglas, Jibaro Perez, the Olympians.

Aug. 1990: Meldrick Taylor: Brilliance In Defeat. Color Pinup: Buster Douglas. Interview: Teddy Atlas. Also: Buddy McGirt, Dokes-Ruddock, Simon Brown.

Sept. 1990: KO Interview-Buster Douglas. Color Pinup: Macho Camacho. Also: Thomas Hearns, Nigel Benn, Greg Haugen, Boxing Hall of Fame.

Oct. 1990: Send In The Clown: Is Jorge Paez A Phenom Or A Fraud? Color Pinup: Paul Banke. Interview: Tony Lopez. Also: Chavez-Taylor II, Jesse Benavides.

Nov. 1990: The Comeback Of Mike Tyson: A Crooked Course Straight To The Top. Color Pinup: Tony Lopez. Interview: Don Dunphy. Also: Davis-Breland, Riddick Bowe, federal commission.

Dec. 1990: The Heart Of The Matter: Who Will Survive The Holyfield-Douglas War? Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Virgil Hill. Also: Michael Carbajal, Ruelas Brothers, Best Fighter Poll.

Jan. 1991: Macho Ado About Nothing? Why Hector Camacho Wants To Be Believed. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Irving Rudd. Also: Sugar Ray Leonard, Orlando Canizales, Vinny Pazienza.

Feb. 1991: 10 Fighters To Fear: Boxing's Most Destructive Hitters. Color Pinup: Razor Ruddock. Interview: Ray Mercer. Also: Roberto Duran, Saoul Mamby, Mills Lane, Sugar Ray Robinson.

May 1991: Ruddock Eyes The Big Upset Of Tyson. Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Jeff Fenech. Also: Virgil Hill, Pernell Whitaker, Alex Ramos, Simon Brown, Buddy McGirt.

June 1991: Exclusive KO Interview: Evander Holyfield. Color Pinup: Raul Perez. Also: Norris-Leonard, Charles Williams, champs of 1971 vs. 1991, Chavez.

July 1991: Riddick Bowe: Is He Destined To Be Heavyweight Champ? Color Pinup: Michael Carbajal. Interview: Buddy McGirt. Also: Bobby Czyz, Buster Douglas, Mark Breland.

Aug. 1991: Desert Storm II: Will The Tyson-Ruddock Rematch Be Different? Color Pinup: Loreto Garza. Interview: Michael Carbajal. Also: Brown-Blocker, Fenech-Nelson preview, Harold Brazier, Yuh-Carbajal.

Sept. 1991: Remember Me? I Won The Fight! What "The Real Deal" Still Has To Deal With. Color Pinup: Ray Mercer. Interview: Eddie Futch. Also: Larry Holmes, southpaw heavyweights, Toney-Nunn, Brown-Taylor.

Oct. 1991: Thomas Hearns Works Another Miracle! Now There Are More Hills Left To Climb. Color Pinup: Humberto Gonzalez. Interview: Mike McCallum. Also: Norris-Curry, Richard Steele, Troy Dorsey.

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson-The Only Heavyweight That Matters. Color Pinup: Thomas Hearns. Interview: Troy Dorsey. Also: Fenech-Nelson, James Toney, lost art of bodypunching.

Dec. 1991: Tyson vs. Holyfield-The Experts Analyze The Elements That Will Decide The Fight. Color Pinup: Joey Gamache. Also: Michael Moorer, Pernell Whitaker, Greg Richardson, Robert Quiroga.

Jan. 1992: The Tyson-Holyfield Showdown: An Exclusive Forecast By George Foreman. Color Pinup: Myung Woo Yuh. Also: Fenech-Nelson, TV announcers, boxing's toughest men, Toney-McCallum.

March 1992: KO Interview Mike Tyson: An In-Depth, Toe-To-Toe Talk With Boxing's Biggest Star. Color Pinup: Michael Moorer. Also: Thomas Hearns, Tracy Patterson, Larry Holmes, best fighter poll.

May 1992: Division-By-Division Faceoffs: The Best Of '92 vs. The Best Of '67. Color Pinup: James Warring. Interview: Hector Camacho. Also: Tommy Morrison, Bert Cooper, Gianfranco Rosi.

June 1992: If Not Tyson Or Holyfield, Then Who? Bowe? Moorer? Ruddock? Lewis? Mercer? Color Pinup: James Toney. Interview: Shelly Finkel. Also: Scotty Olson, overrated and underrated fighters, Orlin Norris, Whitaker-Pineda.

July 1992: The Title Reign of Evander Holyfield: A Reason To Hide ... Or A Reason For Pride? Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Julian Jackson. Also: Kelley-Dorsey, Nelson-Fenech, Kennedy McKinney.

Aug. 1992: Bowe Knows The Big Fight: The Top Contender Analyzes Holmes-Holyfield. Color Pinup: Julian Jackson. Interview: Michael Spinks. Also: Thomas Hearns, Blue Horizon, fighting fear, Toney-Barkley, Greg Haugen.

Sept. 1992: Can Tommy Morrison Punch Out The Theory ... White Men Can't Fight. Color Pinup: Welcome Ncita. Interview: Ken Norton. Also: Reggie Johnson, Jimmy Paul, McGirt-Blocker, Ali-Shavers.

Oct. 1992: The Olympics: Golden Memories ... And Golden Futures? Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Genaro Hernandez, Terry Norris.

Nov. 1992: Foreman vs. Holmes: The Fight Evander Holyfield Should Have Prevented. Color Pinup: Iran Barkley. Interview: Joey Gamache. Also: Hector Camacho, Tracy Patterson, Rudy Zavala.

Dec. 1992: The Final Four: Ruddock vs. Lewis, Holyfield vs. Bowe. Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Also: Whitaker-Pineda, Bowe-Coetzer, Alex Stewart, Gamache-Lopez.

Jan. 1993: Holyfield vs. Bowe: Who Will Win and Why. Color Pinup: Al Cole. Interview: Vinny Pazienza. Also: James Toney, Terrence Alli, Maurice Blocker.

March 1993: Not Just Another English Muffin: Lennox Lewis Powers His Way Toward The Title. Color Pinup: Leeonzer Barber. Interview: Emanuel Steward. Also: Reggie Johnson, Lopez-Gamache, USA Network.

May 1993: Recapping The Future: Julio Cesar Chavez' Road To 100-0. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Junior Jones. Also: Buddy McGirt, Riddick Bowe, Raul Marquez.

Dec. 1993: The KO Feud Rages On: "I Will Torture You!" Says Riddick Bowe To Lennox Lewis. Color Pinup: Kennedy McKinney. Also: Mississippi boxing, George Foreman, Yori Boy Campas , Carbajal-Kim, Morrison-Moorer.

July 1994: The Upset Epidemic! Carbajal's Conqueror: Chiquita Gonzalez. Color Pinup: Junior Jones. Interview: Rafael Ruelas. Also: Jake Rodriguez, Czyz-Hearns preview, Randall-Chavez II preview.

June 1995: The Tug-Of-War Over Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Wilfredo Vasquez. Interview: Oliver McCall. Plus: Alejandro Gonzalez, Alexis Arguello, Kostya Tszyu.

March 1996: Whether He Fights Or Not ... Tyson Is Hot! Hot!! Hot!!! Color Pinup: Marco Antonio Barrera. Interview: Jose Sulaiman. Plus: Reggie Tuur, heavyweight prospects, champion's edge.

June 1996: Destined For The Hall Of Fame: Who's In, Who's Out. Color Pinup: Wayne McCullough. Interview: Cedric Kushner. Plus: Danny Romero, Mark Breland, Dynamite Dozen—the next 12.

July 1996: Awesome Again! Tyson Destroys Bruno. Color Pinup: Tyson-Bruno. Interview: Christy Martin. Plus: Chavez-De La Hoya preview, Derrick Gainer, '96 Hall of Fame inductees.

Sept. 1996: Tyson vs. Seldon. Don't Bet On This Fight Until You've Read This Story! Color Pinup: Arturo Gatti. Interview: Butterbean. Plus: Dana Rosenblatt, '92 Olympians, McGuigan-Pedroza.

Nov. 1996 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Bob Arum. Plus: Roy Jones, Roberto Duran, Joe Cortez.

Dec. 1996: Andrew Golota—Taking The Low Road to Stardom. Color Pinup: Mark Johnson. Interview: Rock Newman. Plus: De La Hoya-Gonzalez, Chuck Bodak, bizarre endings, Chavez-Rosario.

Winter 1996: This Is War! Holyfield-Tyson Will Be Explosive ... And Short. Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Bernard Hopkins. Plus: Riddick Bowe, David Reid, Holyfield-Qawi.

Jan. 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Bowe-Golota II: Hatred And Vengeance ... It's A Beautiful Thing! Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Lou Duva. Plus: Mouse Strauss, heavyweight rematches, Azumah Nelson.

Feb. 1997: KO's 1997 Wish List. Color Pinup: Ike Quartey. Interview: Naseem Hamed. Plus: David Tua, Felix Trinidad, Adolpho Washington, Bobby Czyz.

March 1997: Holyfield's Trainer Tells All! An Inside Look At The Upset Of The Year. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Plus: George Foreman, Lupe Pintor, boxing bill, Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Aug. 1997: Oscar Reaches ... But Can't Grasp The Stars. Color Pinup: Nate Miller. Interview: Hector Camacho. Plus: Norris-Trinidad preview, Hall of Fame, Angel Manfredy.

Sept. 1997: A Legitimate Grudge Match! Why Romero-Tapia Could Be The Fight Of The Year. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: David Tua. Plus: Ike Quartey, George Foreman, top promoters.

Nov. 1997: Filling In The Missing Pieces: What "The Bite" Means To Boxing. Color Pinup: Christy Martin. Interview: Jim Lampley. Plus: Vince Phillips, British prospects, Iran Barkley.

Dec. 1997: Johnny Tapia Outshines Danny Romero: The Defining Moment In A "Crazy Life." Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Frans Botha. Plus: Lewis-Akiwande, Don King, Charles Brewer.

Holiday 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Holyfield-Moorer II: Can Evander Avenge His Ugliest Defeat? Color Pinup: Vince Phillips. Interview: Mills Lane. Plus: Roy Jones, Baby Jake Matlala, Boxing 2000.

Jan. 1998: De La Hoya Humbles The Macho Man: "Oscar's The Best I've Ever Fought." Color Pinup: William Guthrie. Interview: Mark Johnson. Plus: Johnny Tapia, Pinklon Thomas, defense.

Feb. 1998: Is Lennox Lewis The World's Best Heavyweight? Color Pinup: Charles Brewer. Interview: Marc Ratner. Plus: Otis Grant, Arturo Gatti.

March 1998: Evander Holyfield: For The Real Deal, Lewis Is No Big Deal. Color Pinup: Lou Del Valle. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Plus: David Izon, Meldrick Taylor, rapid weight loss.

May 1998: Living Up To The Hype: Sometimes They Do ... Sometimes They Don't. Color Pinup: David Reid. Interview: Best Of ... (Part III). Plus: Naseem Hamed, Marty Denkin, women's boxing.

June 1998: Lewis vs. Holyfield: Why The Fight Of The Year Isn't Going To Happen. Color Pinup: Evander Holyfield. Interview: Eddie Futch. Plus: Hector Lizarraga, pain, Head-To-Head review.

Aug. 1998: Lewis Bombs Out Briggs: Would The WBC Champ Do This To Holyfield? Color Pinup: Keith Mullings. Interview: Shane Mosley. Plus: Pernell Whitaker, Marco Antonio Barrera, Roberto Garcia.

Sept. 1998: Can Mike Tyson Make A Successful Comeback? Sugar Ray Leonard Has The Answer. Color Pinup: Michael Grant. Interview: Brad Jacobs. Plus: Naseem Hamed, Wayne McCullough, Kirk Johnson.

Oct. 1998: The Ultimate Fantasy Card. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: Roy Jones. Plus: Brendan Ingle, NYPD boxing, prospect blueprint.

Nov. 1998 The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Tim Austin. Plus: Cesar Bazan, Spencer Oliver, Bobby Czyz.

Dec. 1998: Winning Fights Is Easier Than Winning Fans: Why Can't We Appreciate Roy Jones? Color Pinup: Tim Austin. Interview: Michael Grant. Plus: Christy Martin, Ali Reform Act, one-hit wonders.

Holiday 1998: Toe-To-Toe With The Top 10: Where Does Tyson Fit In? Color Pinup: Shane Mosley. Inteview: Larry Hazzard. Plus: Evander Holyfield, junior middleweights.

Jan. 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): Oscar Eliminates Chazez ... Now The Real Fights Begin! Color Pinup: Yory Boy Campas. Interview: William Joppy. Plus: Mark Johnson, U.S.A. vs. the world.

Feb. 1999: Holyfield & Lewis: Did They Hurt Themselves Before They Could Hurt Each Other? Color Pinup: Andrew Golota. Interview: Angel Manfredy. Plus: Mismatches, Bobby Czyz on watching fights.

March 1999: Exposed! Is Hamed Really Hector Camacho In Disguise? Color Pinup: Mike Tyson. Interview: Joe Frazier. Plus: Zab Judah, Vuyani Bungu, Frankie Randall.

May 1999: The Tyson Of Old ... Or Just An Old Tyson? Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Fernando Vargas. Plus: Antonio Diaz, Sumya Anani, standing eight-count.

June 1999: Will Tyson's Jail Time Be A Career Killer? Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Floyd Mayweather. Plus: Roy Jones, 1999 Hall of Fame, stagnation.

July 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): De La Hoya vs. Trinidad: The Fight The Public Demands ... But Is It Going To Happen? Color Pinup: David Tua. Interview: Tommy Brooks. Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Tony Marshall, best of the century.

Aug. 1999: Lewis vs. Holyfield II: Should We Expect Anything Different Next Time? Color Pinup: Fernando Vargas. Interview: David Reid. Plus: Ibeabuchi-Byrd, Melissa Salamone.

Sept. 1999: Mayeather vs. Mosley: Who's The Future Of Boxing? Color Pinup: James Page. Interview: J Russell Peltz. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Thomas Hearns, Angel Manfredy.

Oct. 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Felix Trinidad. Interview: Jake LaMotta. Plus: Tony Ayala, Erik Morales, Junior Jones.

Nov. 1999: De La Hoya vs. Trinidad: "It's Gonna Come Down To Who The Hell Wants It Most!" Color Pinup: David Reid. Interview: Arturo Gatti. Plus: Roy Jones, Sugar Shane Mosley, Vassily Jirov.

Dec. 1999: David Reid & Fernando Vargas: Olympic Teammates On A Collision Course! Color Pinup: Zab Judah. Interview: Ike Ibeabuchi. Plus: Vitaly Klitschko, Antonio Tarver, Mike Tyson.

Holiday 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): Lewis-Holyfield II: Why We Demand A Knockout! Color Pinup: Sharmba Mitchell. Interview: Paulie Ayala. Plus: James Toney, James Page & Terronn Millett, decade review.

Jan. 2000: Fool's Gold? Trinidad May Have Tarnished Oscar's Image Forever! Color Pinup: Paulie Ayala. Interview: Tony Ayala Jr. Plus: David Reid, Johnny Nelson.

Feb. 2000: Breakout 2000: Who's Going To Lead The Way In Y2K? Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Bob Arum. Plus: Shane Mosley, Wise-Chavez, Iran Barkley.

March 2000: Mike Tyson: "I'm Tired Of This Crap!" So Are We, Mike! Color Pinup: Vernon Forrest. Interview: James Page. Plus: Erik Morales & Naseem Hamed, Diego Corrales, women's boxing.

May 2000: Michael Grant vs. Lennox Lewis—25 Insiders Pick The Winner. Color Pinup: Paul Spadafora. Interview: Dan Goossen. Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Johnny Tapia, southpaws.

June 2000: Lewis vs. Grant: Who Will Win ... And Why. Color Pinup: Vitaly Klitschko. Interview: Sharmba Mitchell. Plus: Shane Mosley, David Izon, 2000 Hall of Fame.

July 2000: Today's Fighters, Tomorrow's Hall Of Famers. Color Pinup: Keith Holmes. Interview: Shane Mosley. Plus: Zab Judah, Morales-Barrera, Wayne Braithwaite.

Aug. 2000: Mosley Prepares For Oscar: "It Will Be Like The First Round Of Hagler-Hearns. Color Pinup: Erik Morales. Interview: Chris Byrd. Plus: Vargas-Quartey, Thomas Hearns, Felix Trinidad, common sense vs. cowardice.

Sept. 2000: Now Vargas Is Ready For Trinidad & De La Hoya. Color Pinup: Erik Morales. Interview: Chris Byrd. Plus: Trinidad vs. all-time greats, Thomas Hearns, common sense vs. cowardice.

Oct. 2000 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Floyd Mayweather. Interview: Stevie Johnston. Plus: Clifford Etienne, overhyped heavyweights.

Nov. 2000: Sugar Rush! Mosley Achieves Superstardom At Oscar's Expense. Color Pinup: Lennox Lewis. Interview: Jay Larkin. Plus: David Tua, Oleg Maskaev, Ben Tackie.

Dec. 2000: Mike Tyson vs. Lennox Lewis: 15 Insiders Pick The Winner. Color Pinup: Shane Mosley. Interview: Frank Maloney. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Bronco McKart, our heroes' heroes.

[FULL-COLOR BEGINNING FEBRUARY 2001]

Feb. 2001: Fernando Vargas' Internal Battle: If He Can't Win It, He Can't Beat Trinidad. Interview: Evander Holyfield. Plus: Derrick Gainer, Roy Jones, Naseem Hamed.

April 2001: Lewis Is Too Much For Tua ... But Could Tyson Do Any Better? Interview: Max Kellerman. Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Wladimir Klitschko.

June 2001: Trinidad-Jones: Superfight Or Mismatch? Interview: Virgil Hill. Plus: Mayweather-Corrales, Paul Ingle, Davey Hilton, Tyson's relationship with Vargas, Judah, and Mayweather.

Aug. 2001: Sugar Shane Mosley: Too Sweet For The Bad Boy Era? Interview: Richard Steele. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Roy Jones, Jesus Chavez.

Oct. 2001: Tito Power—From Fans To Foes ... Everyone's Feeling It! Interview: Lou DiBella. Plus: Hasim Rahman, Vargas-Rivera, F.I.S.T.

Dec. 2001: Laila Ali: The Fighter, The Sex Symbol ... The Future Of Women's Boxing? Interview: Laila Ali. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Tim Austin, Manny Pacquiao, Hector Camacho Jr.

❑ JUN/83	❑ JUL/88	❑ OCT/91	❑ WIN/96	❑ JUL/99
❑ OCT/83	❑ AUG/88	❑ NOV/91	❑ JAN/97	❑ AUG/99
❑ AUG/84	❑ SEP/88	❑ DEC/91	❑ FEB/97	❑ SEP/99
❑ OCT/84	❑ OCT/88	❑ JAN/92	❑ MAR/97	❑ OCT/99
❑ NOV/84	❑ JAN/89	❑ MAR/92	❑ AUG/97	❑ NOV/99
❑ JAN/85	❑ FEB/89	❑ MAY/92	❑ NOV/97	❑ DEC/99
❑ FEB/85	❑ SEP/89	❑ JUN/92	❑ DEC/97	❑ HOL/99
❑ MAR/85	❑ NOV/89	❑ JUL/92	❑ HOL/97	❑ JAN/00
❑ MAY/85	❑ FEB/90	❑ AUG/92	❑ JAN/98	❑ FEB/00
❑ JUL/85	❑ MAY/90	❑ SEP/92	❑ FEB/98	❑ MAR/00
❑ AUG/85	❑ JUN/90	❑ OCT/92	❑ MAR/98	❑ MAY/00
❑ DEC/85	❑ JUL/90	❑ NOV/92	❑ MAY/98	❑ JUN/00
❑ JAN/86	❑ AUG/90	❑ DEC/92	❑ JUN/98	❑ JUL/00
❑ JUL/86	❑ SEP/90	❑ JAN/93	❑ AUG/98	❑ AUG/00
❑ DEC/86	❑ OCT/90	❑ MAR/93	❑ SEP/98	❑ SEP/00
❑ FEB/87	❑ NOV/90	❑ MAY/93	❑ OCT/98	❑ OCT/00
❑ AUG/87	❑ DEC/90	❑ JUL/94	❑ NOV/98	❑ NOV/00
❑ SEP/87	❑ JAN/91	❑ JUN/95	❑ DEC/98	❑ DEC/00
❑ OCT/87	❑ FEB/91	❑ MAR/96	❑ HOL/98	❑ FEB/01
❑ NOV/87	❑ MAY/91	❑ JUN/96	❑ JAN/99	❑ APR/01
❑ DEC/87	❑ JUN/91	❑ JUL/96	❑ FEB/99	❑ JUN/01
❑ JAN/88	❑ JUL/91	❑ SEP/96	❑ MAR/99	❑ AUG/01
❑ FEB/88	❑ AUG/91	❑ NOV/96	❑ MAY/99	❑ OCT/01
❑ MAY/88	❑ SEP/91	❑ DEC/96	❑ JUN/99	❑ DEC/01

KO MAGAZINE

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 EACH

Please send me the back issues I've checked. I enclose $_____ as payment in full. PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____ **Apt.** _____

_____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent boat mail, and $3 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only.
Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery
In case of a sellout, indicate substitute choice: _____

5756/09-01/4c

WHO'S FIT TO FIGHT?

Boxing Struggles To Protect Fighters From Themselves

Even though he eventually prevailed via disqualification, Riddick Bowe absorbed a terrible beating in his second fight with Andrew Golota. "Big Daddy" hasn't fought since, but is rumored to be seeking a jurisdiction that will grant him a boxing license despite showing signs of having suffered brain damage.

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

By David Mayo

Because our last image of Riddick Bowe is of a judge pronouncing that boxing-related brain damage made it impossible to sentence him to a long prison term for what began as a federal kidnapping charge, any warm-and-fuzzy feeling regarding the former heavyweight champion's rumored comeback is minimal, if it exists at all.

Nevada fired preemptively against "Big Daddy" returning there. Marc Ratner, the Nevada Athletic Commission executive director, has heard hints of Bowe's planned comeback. Of course, Bowe's other recent career concepts—a Marine Corps stint, and a school-guard job—never panned out, so perhaps his boxing comeback won't, either.

But in case the plan expands beyond a few rounds on the heavybag, Ratner clearly stated Nevada's position.

"I don't foresee him being licensed here," Ratner said. "He certainly has some neurological problems. All you have to do is hear him speak. I don't know whether he even has a manager or a promoter, and there have been no official inquiries. But I don't foresee him receiving a license in Nevada."

Ratner oversees the most powerful boxing jurisdiction in the world. Nevertheless, his declaration does not prohibit Bowe from fighting again. It just means Bowe would have to select a more favorable venue.

When vision-challenged Aaron Pryor and brain-damaged Jerry Quarry planned ill-advised comebacks several years ago, both quickly focused on Wisconsin's weak boxing governance as a favorable venue where their license applications could get rubber-stamp approval. Although Pryor and Quarry were extreme examples—as Bowe would be—the phenomenon continues of once-prominent fighters facing opponents who used to present no risk, but now present health risks. So, too, does the question persist of what boxing commissions might do to avoid being targeted for their weak licensing laws, and actually protect faded fighters from their own legends.

States frequently find themselves handcuffed by their own statutes. Age-discrimination and right-to-work laws often short-circuit commission efforts to deny licenses to fighters with suspicious neurological histories. The conflicting issues of protecting a fighter from harm before it occurs, balanced against taxpayer vulnerability to lawsuits, minimize many commissions' efforts to deny licenses to aging fighters.

One solution could be neurological examinations as a pre-licensing condition. But cost makes that prohibitive in some smaller states, and even commissioners of larger states insist that a standardized neurological requirement, like California's, is unnecessarily expensive.

Tim Lueckenhoff, president of the Association of Boxing Commissions, said several commissioners have pushed for national standardization of prefight physical examinations. Whether a standardized physical would include a neurological examination is a significant part of that debate.

"The problem is that a lot of the ABC is made up of states with very few fights, and some of those only have club-fights," Lueckenhoff said. "If we require a CATscan, an EEG, an EKG, some commissioners are concerned that their states cannot compete with other states. To require that kind of testing would be a tough decision for many commissioners, because the minute they make that decision, they put themselves out of business.

"Our first job, before anything else, is protecting the health and welfare of the fighter. On the other hand, if we make [standardized physicals] too restrictive, we could legislate people right out of business. It's a very fine line and a very difficult question."

Age is hardly the only consideration when determining an otherwise fit fighter's capacity to box. George Foreman almost got his AARP card before regaining the heavyweight title. Larry Holmes, 52, has a 14-2 record since 1993. Ray Mercer, 40, is on a five-fight win streak. Tim Witherspoon, Vinny Paz, and Jorge Paez all have remained viable by decreasing their competition levels, and all three win regularly.

For many once-significant boxers, fate has not been so kind:

•Frankie Randall, the first conqueror of Julio Cesar Chavez, has lost seven fights in a row. The last five were stoppages. Randall, 40, recently celebrated his 20th professional

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Bowe has displayed some strange behavior since quitting the ring. First, he joined the U.S. Marines (above), but soon dropped out. Then he was arrested for kidnapping his former wife, Judy, and their children (below).

anniversary. He has been neurologically examined just once during his three-year losing streak, his acting manager said, and that was for the express purpose of shortening an existing suspension for a previous knockout so Randall could fight again.

•Chavez, 39, is making a comeback after almost 18 months of inactivity, and after regrettable losses in two of his last three bouts—to journeyman Willy Wise on a stunningly easy decision, and a lopsided knockout at the hands of Kostya Tszyu, after which Chavez refused a drug screen. Randall hopes to be among the once-great Mexican champion's future opponents, although he might be alone in clamoring for Chavez-Randall III.

•Vincent Pettway, 36, who has fought infrequently in the last five years, and suffered an unsightly beating in his most recent bout after the referee and the Maryland commission's chief physician engaged in confused communication whether or not the fight should be stopped.

•Tom Johnson, 37, once had a record of 44-2-1 as featherweight titleholder, but is 7-7-1 since.

•Peter McNeeley, 33, was carefully nurtured to a 36-1 record before facing Mike Tyson in 1995, but is 2-4 the last three years, with all four losses by knockout inside of three rounds, including one to Eric "Butterbean" Esch.

Clearly, each of the aforementioned fighters has faded far from his prime. The slipperiness of the slope varies from fighter to fighter. The question of what commissions can do, or should do, to stop them from fighting again varies just as widely.

Most boxing jurisdictions are more empowered over an existing licensee than a license applicant. That is, once a fighter has a license, the burden for retaining it becomes greater than the burden for obtaining it. The capacity for control over an aging fighter's fate actually increases when a state grants him a license. States can take heavy suspension measures once one of its licensees is knocked out.

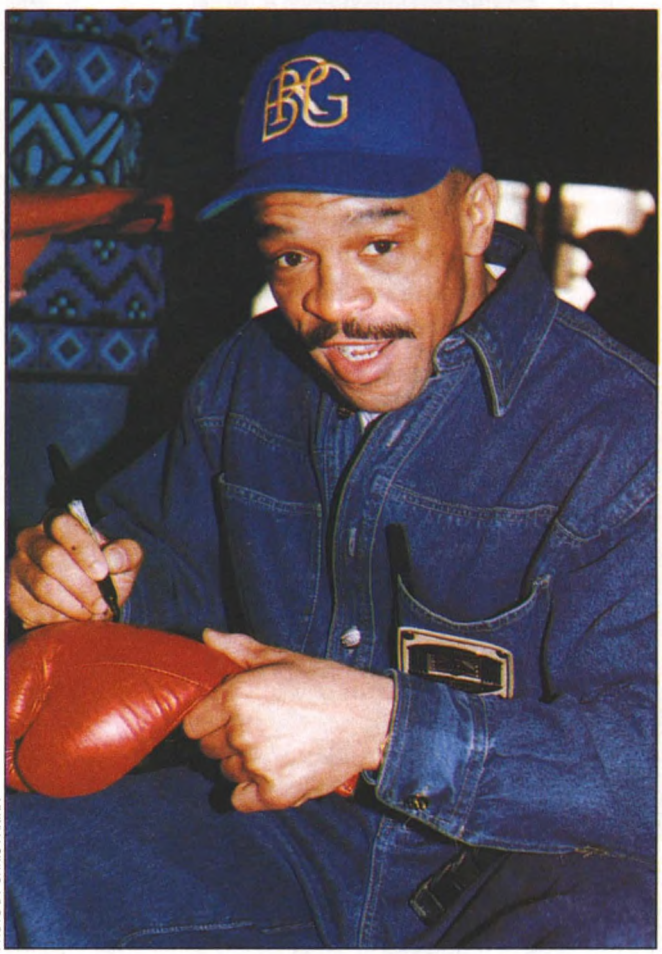


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Three-time former junior welterweight champion Frankie Randall has fallen on hard times recently, and has lost seven consecutive fights. His manager wants him to retire and become a trainer, but Randall fights on in search of additional paydays.

"Some states don't have laws requiring medical testing before licensing, but then after a license is granted, they have more control to require medical testing, simply because you become one of their licensees," Lueckenhoff said.

Of course, by then, the damage to the fighter might be done.

Lueckenhoff, who besides serving as ABC president is also administrator of the Missouri Office of Athletics, oversees one of a tiny handful of commissions self-empowered to retire a fighter against his will, for anything from being knocked unconscious down to "poor boxing skills—simply being a lousy fighter," Lueckenhoff said.

A fighter retired by the Missouri commission has no right to appeal. As of October 2001, 13 fighters were listed as "retired by Missouri" on the national suspensions list. None has challenged the five-year-old Missouri statute legally, Lueckenhoff said.

"It would be very interesting to see what happens if anyone ever does challenge it legally," Lueckenhoff said.

In Nevada, any fighter over age 36, or with more than 350 professional rounds, must pass a neurological exam to receive a license. The state also can order neurological exams on a case-by-case basis. It certainly would order one in the case of Bowe, who meets neither Nevada's age nor rounds minimum, but would offer a case-study dilemma to any state where he applies for a boxing license.

Bowe is only 34, which makes him significantly younger than many of today's better-known heavyweights. Bowe also has a 40-1 professional record, losing only to Evander Holyfield, whom Bowe defeated on two other occasions. Still, Bowe's trilogy with Holyfield, and his two 1996 foulfests with Andrew Golota, were brutally draining fights. It was startling after the second Golota fight to hear Bowe's mid-ring interview, in which the former champion, whose glibness was intact before the bout, turned molasses-tongued before the world's eyes.

"You can hear it in his speech. That's the most telling sign of neurological damage to a fighter," Ratner said.

Bowe has not fought since that second Golota bout, and within months began to exhibit the bizarre characteristics that hearken the question of how he fits in society, much less boxing.

In '97, Bowe joined the Marine Corps Reserves, and lasted 11 days at boot camp before he quit. That same year, Bowe applied for a $10.49-an-hour job as a school guard, and also got into a physical argument with his sister, Verna Melton, which left both with split lips.

Bowe a year later abducted his estranged wife and their five children from Charlotte, North Carolina, with the intention of transporting them to his Fort Washington, Maryland, home. Judy Bowe escaped at a Virginia restaurant, and Riddick was arrested under federal kidnapping statute. Although he faced up to 10 years, Bowe ultimately received 30 days when the judge—citing Bowe's debilitation from head

PHOTO BY RAY BAILEY

Former 154-pound titlist Vince Pettway is another ex-champ who is in danger of getting seriously hurt. In August 2001, he took a horrible beating from Luis Rosado, made worse by referee Kenny Chevalier's refusal to accept the white towel of surrender thrown into the ring by one of the ringside doctors.

"BOXING TECHNIQUES AND MOVES RARELY TAUGHT THAT WILL IMPROVE YOUR FIGHTING" BOXING VIDEOS.

THE HOOKS OF ROBINSON, MARCIANO, FRAZIER AND HAGLER • HIDDEN ABILITIES OF WILLY PEP AND ALI • L/R HOOKS FROM "IMPOSSIBLE" ANGLES AND DISTANCES • RIPPING L. UPPERCUTS • UNCOMMON RIGHTS/JABS • FEINTS • SIDE-STEPPING • CIRCLING RIGHT • RETREAT-COUNTER • TOE-TO-TOE ROLL PUNCHING • DIVERSE SWITCH-HITTING FOOTWORK • COMBINATIONS IN MOTION (FAST RHYTHM, ALL DIRECTIONS) • BOUNCE-PUNCHING OFF THE ROPES • SURVIVAL AND CRAFTY MOVES ARE TAUGHT BY "JESSE" RODRIGUEZ. 5 MAJOR TECHNIQUES WILL HELP YOU CREATE MORE PUNCHING ANGLES AND NEW STRATEGIES, GUARANTEED. FOR 3 VHS VIDEOTAPES (14 HOURS) SEND ONLY $65.00 M.O. ($99.00 FOREIGN) PAYABLE TO: "JESSE" RODRIGUEZ 5701-D BELLAIRE #93, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77081 USA

www.boxingimprovement.20m.com

injuries as the basis for his lenient sentence—agreed to a prosecutor's plea bargain down to interstate domestic violence.

In February 2001, Bowe was charged with assaulting his second wife, Terri, at their home in Syosset, New York, a misdemeanor, although it could present problems with his federal probation.

Bowe's personal issues have played out in public, but what of a fighter like Randall, who shows no mental characteristics of being shopworn and appears physically fit but tires so quickly in a fight that he poses little danger to anyone but himself? At what point should he be saved from his own status as a "name" opponent who gets paid to lose?

Randall would have to be selective in choosing where he fights these days. Several jurisdictions have enacted licensing measures requiring any fighter with six consecutive losses to undergo extensive medical testing, or in some cases automatically deny the application.

Randall lost for the seventh consecutive time when he quit after eight rounds against Chantel Stanciel in Washington, D.C. At the time, Randall led on two of the three scorecards.

"He said he was just too tired and couldn't go on," said Don Hale, Randall's acting manager. "I told him, 'Frankie, if you just stand up, you've got the fight won.' But the referee looked at him, and asked him if he wanted to stop the fight, and Frankie said, 'Yes.' Frankie just quit.

"I told him after the fight that he needs to be training fighters. Frankie would be a great trainer. But he won't quit."

Randall built his legend by becoming the first man ever to defeat Chavez, winning the WBC super lightweight title, before losing the rematch on a controversial technical decision, both in 1994. Randall later held the WBA 140-pound title twice, from '94-'96 and '96-'97. His title loss to Khalid Rahilou represented the beginning of the end. For a while, Randall's slipshod training habits bore the blame. But Randall trained five weeks in Michigan, where Hale lives, for the Stanciel fight.

"He's still hard to hit, and while he still has his legs under him, he's dangerous," Hale said. "Frankie hasn't been hurt in any of these fights. If he was, I wouldn't let him fight at all. He just gets tired."

Randall suffered four stoppage losses in 2001. The third of those, to Jose Antonio Rivera, August 24, in Atlantic City, carried a 60-day suspension. But the Stanciel fight was scheduled for 55 days later, on October 18. New Jersey agreed to reduce the suspension to 45 days, under condition that Randall provide proof he had passed a neurological exam.

Hale, though, said he sees little benefit in Randall continuing, unless he can get the third Chavez fight, or perhaps a good fight overseas.

"He's got seven losses in a row, so nobody really wants him in the U.S. anymore," Hale said. "He's got a name, and people want to use him as an opponent. But he's not even a good opponent anymore, because all he wants is a payday.

"There's nothing mentally wrong with Frankie, other than I think he mentally just doesn't care anymore. In that way, mentally, he's just shot."

Pettway faces questions about his own fitness to fight, which might not have surfaced if not for a strange ending to a fight in Maryland.

Pettway has had three long periods of inactivity since his IBF junior middleweight reign (1994-'96). All lasted more than a year. He has fought four times in five years.

On August 31, Pettway accepted a

tough fight against Luis Rosado in Pettway's native Baltimore. Pettway was dominated most of the fight, and knocked down once. There were discussions during several round breaks regarding Pettway's fitness to continue between referee Kenny Chevalier and two of three ringside physicians assigned by the Maryland State Athletic Commission.

During the sixth round, commission chief physician Steven Manekin threw a towel into the ring, seeming to indicate he wanted Chevalier to stop the fight. Chevalier threw the towel out. The referee ultimately halted the fight in the sixth round when another commission doctor, Doug Frankel, stepped onto the ring apron, but Pettway absorbed a beating in the interim. Pettway remains under indefinite suspension in Maryland, and must pass a CATscan and neurological examination before he can fight again.

Patrick Pannella, executive director of the Maryland commission, cited procedural issues for allowing the fight to continue after Manekin threw the towel into the ring. Doctors are empowered to stop fights in Maryland, but must step onto the ring apron and get the referee's attention to do so.

"The referee is several feet above crowd level, and a towel comes into the ring that didn't come from either corner, is he supposed to stop the fight?" Pannella asked. "Dr. Manekin is a great doctor, an outstanding doctor in his knowledge of boxing and boxers, but if the doctor intends to stop the fight, he has to follow certain procedures, and those procedures were not followed."

Manekin, in fact, is a neurologist, and Maryland is one of few states that requires an examination by a board-certified neurologist with every license application or renewal. Maryland pays for the exam if the applicant uses a commission-selected neurologist. The commission also may order additional neurological examinations as it sees fit.

"From a commission perspective, it is critical that we provide our physicians with all the information we can gather about a boxer," Pannella said. "You check his suspension history, his record, you call other commissions, you call doctors in other states, you find out if he's been knocked out, has he been in a number of tough fights in a row. You talk to trainers. I've even talked to journalists. Any source of information we deem credible is presented to our physicians.

Julio Cesar Chavez was brutally knocked out by junior welterweight champion Kostya Tszyu in six rounds in his last fight, and retired afterward. Now the Mexican icon wants to make another comeback, which could very well result in further beatings.

"The Pettway fight might not be one of my favorite subjects, but the subject of neurological examinations is. We're very proud of our medical requirements."

Greg Sirb was in attendance when Pettway got beat up in Baltimore. The executive director of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission, and former ABC president, oversees another of the handful of jurisdictions that can mandate a fighter's retirement. Like in Missouri, Sirb said no forced retirement in Pennsylvania has been legally challenged during his 12 years on the commission.

"A fighter can be retired under a lot of different conditions. It can be neurological. A lot of times, it's just a fighter losing a lot of fights in a row," Sirb said.

Age discrimination laws prohibit denying or revoking a boxing license on that basis in Pennsylvania. Sirb said he currently is dealing with another former champion, in his 50s, who wants to fight again. Sirb declined to disclose the name of the applicant, "because there might be some litigation involved."

License applicants who are over 36, or who have lost six consecutive fights, usually are required to provide neurological documentation to receive a Pennsylvania license, Sirb said. However, Sirb does not advocate expanding the law to mandate neurological documentation as a licensing requirement.

"I think it should be done on a case-by-case basis," Sirb said. "If a kid is knocked out by a bodypunch in West Virginia, does he need a neurological exam to get a license in Pennsylvania? Not unless his liver flew up and hit him in the head. Some fighters, yes, you'd better damn well believe they need neuros, with some of the knockouts you see. But you've got to use common sense."

At the same time, Sirb maintains every state commission should have both the power and wherewithal to save aging fighters—former champions and journeymen alike—from overexposure to harm, with or without neurological testing.

"At the commission level, there comes a time when you have to be able to sit down with a guy, no matter what kind of fighter he used to be, and say, 'Hey, I'm not comfortable with doing this anymore,' and not worry about getting sued," Sirb said. "A license to box in Pennsylvania is a privilege, not a God-given right. Besides, you can get sued either way. And I'd rather get sued for not letting a guy fight than get sued by his estate because he died. That's a given." ■

David Mayo covers boxing for the Grand Rapids Press and is a regular contributor to this magazine.

International Boxing Hall of Fame - Canastota, New York

I ♥ NY

ANNUAL INDUCTION WEEKEND JUNE 6-9, 2002

★ A Championship Weekend in Boxing's Hometown ★

BANQUET OF CHAMPIONS

Spinks Jinx . . . brothers Michael and Leon exchange stories of capturing world titles.

FIST CASTING

Everlasting . . . a fist cast by Felix "Tito" Trinidad.

PARADE OF CHAMPIONS

Marvelous . . . Marvin Hagler waves to fans.

Grand Marshal . . . HBO star Tony Sirico greets parade spectators.

CELEBRITY BOXING NIGHT

LAILA ALI

HECTOR CAMACHO

Fight Night . . . Popular boxers featured in action-packed bouts at Turning Stone Casino Resort.

5K RACE, FUN RUN

Road Work . . . Christy Martin, Paul Spadafora (L), and Livingstone Bramble enjoy race.

Go . . . Ken Norton officially starts race of celebrity boxers and runners.

INDUCTION CEREMONY

A Moment in Time . . . Ismael Laguna (L) on induction bandstand while George Benton (R) poses in museum moments before Induction Ceremony.

BOXING CARD SHOW

A Collector's Dream . . . Boxing memorabilia for fans. The world's only all-boxing show draws collectors from throughout the world.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Putt . . . Jimmy Ellis (L) chips on 18th green and Juan LaPorte (R) poses with golfers.

VIP COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Stars . . . Marvelous Marvin Hagler and Hector "Macho" Camacho pose for reception guests, while Angelo Dundee (R) receives red carpet welcome.

WORKOUT SESSIONS

Paul Spadafora and Sugar Shane Mosley work out for the public on Museum grounds.

RINGSIDE TALKS

Reminiscing. . . Alexis Arguello (L) reunites with Ruben Olivares (R).

Yes! Please send me a brochure of the Schedule of Events and ticket information

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

The Showplace of Boxing
CANASTOTA, NY
BOXING HALL OF FAME

Int'l Boxing Hall of Fame
PO Box 425 • Canastota, NY 13032
Call: 315-697-7095
or Fax: 315-697-5356

Madison County Tourism 1-800-684-7320

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Lou Savarese W 12 David Bostice
Corrie Sanders KO 1 Michael Sprott
Shannon Briggs KO 1 Jason Waller
Lamon Brewster KO 1 Joey Guy
Joe Mesi KO 1 Derrick Banks
Ramon Garbey KO 8 Saul Montana
Eliecer Castillo Tech. Draw 2 Fred Adams
Dirk Wallyn KO 9 Jukka Jarvinen
Anton Nel KO 3 Sam Ubokane
Keith McKnight KO 1 Jimmy Garrett
Derrick Brown KO 5 Joseph Chingangu
Crawford Grimsley Tech. Draw 3 Nick Nurse
Pele Reid W 4 Mal Rice
Dominick Guinn KO 1 Todd Diggs
Eric Kirkland KO 1 Chris Brown
Roger Izonritei KO 4 Tony Fiso
Paolo Vidoz W 6 Nick Nurse
Audley Harrison KO 2 Piotr Jurczyk

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Juan Carlos Gomez KO 6 Pietro Aurino
(Retains WBC Title)
Jorge Castro KO 8 Imamu Mayfield
Michael Nunn KO 6 Kenny Cravens
Turan Bagci KO 6 Rene Janvier
Frederic Serrat W 8 Joe Siluvangi
Joey DeGrandis W 6 Kwan Manasseh
Michael Bennett KO 1 Eddie Slater

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Silvio Branco W 6 Yohan Gimenez
Tony Oakey W 12 Chris Davies
Arturo Rivera W 12 Juan Carlos Viloria
Mario Tonus W 10 Massimiliano Saiani
Paul Briggs KO 3 James Green
Jonathan Young W 8 Max Heyman

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Sam Hill KO 9 David Reid
Robin Reid KO 3 Jorge Scarlandi
Tony Ayala KO 2 Manuel Lopez
Anthony Mundine KO 2 Guy Waters
Danny Batchelder KO 6 Segundo Mercado
Ryan Rhodes W 4 Jason Collins
Oscar Bravo KO 3 Shannon Miller

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Armand Krajnc W 12 Paolo Roberto
Robert Allen KO 2 Marlon Hayes
Andras Galfi KO 2 Nenad Stankovic
Ian McLeod W 12 Wayne Parr
Hussain Osman W 10 Gary Logan
Aslanbek Kodzoev KO 2 Artem Solomko
Jermain Taylor KO 2 Dave Hamilton

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Bronco McKart W 12 Alex Bunema
Steve Roberts W 12 Ron Weaver
Hector Camacho Jr. KO 4 Eric Jakubowski
Richard Williams KO 6 Victor Fessetchko
Anthony Farnell KO 12 Pavel Melinkov
Nader Hamdan W 12 Deasean Lee
Fitz Vanderpool Tech. Win 5 Gustavo Soto
Mikael Rask W 6 Joseph Ngandu
Soulemain Mbaye W 10 Frederic Tripp
David Estrada KO 5 Charles Clark

WELTERWEIGHTS

Manuel Gomez W 10 Alexis Perez
Vince Phillips KO 3 Carlitos Brosas
Golden Johnson KO 4 Johnny Casas
Chantel Stanciel KO 8 Frankie Randall
Francisco Bojado KO 1 Mauro Lucero
Jawaid Khaliq KO 3 Luther Smith
Maxim Nesterenko KO 1 Maxim Klimov
Ton Ton Semakala W 10 Jesus Valverde
Christian Bladt W 8 Alban Mothie
Juan Rivera W 6 Alejandro Jimenez
Terrance Churchwell W 6 Leobardo Roman
Muhammad Abdullaev KO 5 Miguel Ruiz

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Kostya Tszyu KO 2 Zab Judah
(Unifies World Title)
Terronn Millett W 10 Bernard Harris
Ricky Hatton KO 2 Fred Pendleton
Victoriano Sosa KO 3 Victor Valentin
Junior Witter KO 2 Colin Mayisela

Eamonn Magee W 12 Matthews Zulu
Pablo Sarmiento W 12 Michael Ayers
Lawrence Ngobeni W 12 Lucky Lewele
Terrance Cauthen Tech. Win 4
Sebastian Valdez
Mario Ramos W 12 Victor Mendoza
Ernie Zavala Tech. Win 5 Eduardo Castillo
Gary St. Clair W 8 Mendocino Sibua
Ubaldo Hernandez KO 1 Ebo Elder
Ivan Kirpa W 6 Leonti Voronchuk
Pascali Adorno W 4 Edwin Alagarin
Juan Diaz W 4 Rudy Lunsford
Dmitriy Salita KO 3 Miguel Mares

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Colin Dunne KO 7 Alan Temple
Carlos Gerena W 10 Cesar Bazan
Juan Arias D 10 Jorge Monzon
Stefano Zoff KO 8 Bruno Wartelle
Jose Luis Juarez KO 5 Jaime Bretado
Sandro Casamonica W 12 Abdelillah Touil
Ernesto Zepeda KO 6 Rocky Cassiani
Steve Quinonez W 12 Juan Valenzuela
Diego Gimenez KO 3 Ricardo Silva
Martin Jacobs KO 7 Petrus Padi
Calvin Davis W 8 Mike Tidline-El
Lemuel Nelson KO 4 Hector Mojica

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Floyd Mayweather KO 9 Jesus Chavez
(Retains WBC Title)
Phillip Ndou W 12 Cassius Baloyi
Sirimongkol Singmanassak KO 3
Arman Molina
Michael Gomez KO 2 Craig Doherty
Junior Jones KO 7 Mike Juarez
Arnulfo Castillo W 12 Antonio Pitalua
Yodsanan Nanthachai KO 9 Jesus Sataren
Silvano Usini KO 5 Athanas Nzau
Alex Arthur KO 1 Alexey Slyauchin
Rolanda Andrews KO 2 Mia St. John

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Juan Manuel Marquez KO 1 Johnny Walker
David Toledo KO 4 Carlos Rocha
Jackson Asiku Tech. Win 6 Arnel Barotillo
Santiago Rojas W 6 Juan Polo Perez
Rocky Juarez KO 2 Corey Alarcon

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Manny Pacquiao Tech. Draw 6
Agapito Sanchez
(Retains IBF Title)

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

"Panchito" Bojado gets away with jabbing slightly low against Mauro Lucero

Oscar Larios W 12 Angel Chacon
Fernando Velardez W 10 Gerardo Espinoza
Emmanuel Lucero W 12 Ivan Alvarez
Napapol Kiatisakchokechai KO 10
Dino Olivetti
Brian Carr W 12 Misheck Kondwai

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Veerapol Sahaprom KO 7 Boy Givara
(Non-Title Bout)
Israel Vazquez KO 5 Felipe Ramirez
Pete Frissina W 12 Jorge Lacierva
Jhonny Gonzales KO 10 Ablorh Sowah
Nobuaki Naka Tech. Win 7 Hisataka Ikemori
Evaristo Primero KO 2 Jose Luis Velarde

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Samson Toyota-Thailand KO 8 Orly Padilyo
Mauricio Pastrana KO 9 Alberto Ontiveros
Yokthai Sithoar KO 9 Lee Escobido
Lunga Ntontela KO 2 Mzi Dintsi
Ladislao Vazquez W 12 Miguel Garcia
Dimitri Kirilov W 6 Sergei Tasimov
Jose Navarro KO 2 Jesus Valdez

FLYWEIGHTS

Irene Pacheco KO 4 Mike Trejo
(Retains IBF Title)
Pongsaklek Singwangcha Tech. Win 8
Alex Ali Baba
(Retains WBC Title)
Jose Lopez Bueno W 8 Over Bolanos
Hiroshi Nakano W 12
Panomdeth Au Yuthanakorn
Vic Darchinian KO 7 Sandy Kizito
Gabriel Elizondo KO 2 Guillermo Puga
Brian Viloria KO 1 Sheldon Wile

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Jorge Arce W 12 Juanito Rubillar
Melchor Cob-Castro W 12
Paulino Villalobos
Victor Burgos W 12 Juan Alfonso Keb-Baas
Ivan Calderon W 8 Jorge Romero

STRAWWEIGHTS

Jose Antonio Aguirre KO 3 Wolf Tokimitsu
(Retains WBC Title)
Omar Soto W 12 Lorenzo Trejo

EVERLAST®
SINCE 1910
PRESENTS

The RING

FIGHTER of the MONTH

If you wanted a reason to predict that Kostya Tszyu would lose to Zab Judah, you didn't have to look far. The loss to Vince Phillips. The two knockdowns he suffered against Diobelys Hurtado. The reliance on wrestling and rough stuff to break down Sharmba Mitchell. The narrow escape against unknown Oktay Urkal in his previous fight. And Judah, in the minds of virtually everyone, was better than any of those guys.

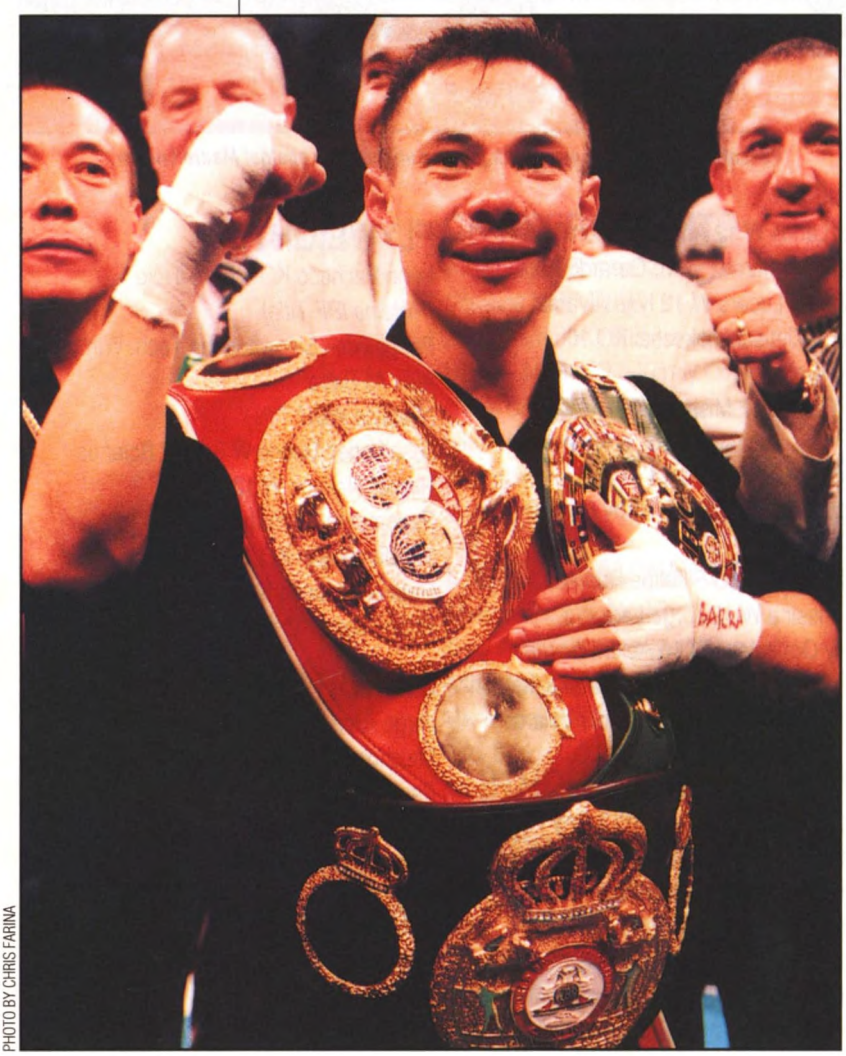


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

But when a cocky kid with a tendency to get sloppy takes on a determined veteran with a bone-crushing right hand, the unexpected can happen. And on November 3 in Las Vegas, it did. Tszyu showed his toughness in the first round, taking the blazing-quick Judah's best shots, and in the second, he pressured and outboxed his younger opponent with surprising ease. Then, with just a few ticks left on the clock, the bone-crushing right met the cocky kid's exposed jaw, and a new undisputed junior welterweight champion was crowned. Was referee Jay Nady a bit hasty in stopping the fight? Maybe so. But you can't hold that against Tszyu, who needed less than six minutes to turn the previously undefeated Judah into a cartoonish stumblebum and score the biggest win of his career.

• • • •

Kostya Tszyu

RINGSIDE REPORTS

PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

Tate and Sheika swing away in a wild one

Thomas Tate KO 4 Omar Sheika

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: For pure, unadulterated ferocity, it would be hard to top the savage shootout that Tate and Sheika staged for a wildly appreciative crowd of 6,154 fans at the First Union Center. The only title at stake was the regional USBA super middleweight belt, but both men fought as if their very lives were on the line, and although the injury-induced ending displeased many, nobody who witnessed what occurred during the 12 minutes of furious action will soon forget it.

Tate, 168, produced what turned out to be the decisive punch in the opening round when he caught Sheika flush on the right eye with a left hook. Almost immediately, the eye began to swell dramatically, and by the time Sheika, 166¼, returned to his corner at the end of the round, he already resembled Carmen Basilio in his second fight with Ray Robinson.

Realizing he was in imminent danger of being stopped, Sheika, 24, stormed out for the second, winging one power-punch after another. The 35-year-old Tate tried to stave off the assault, but was badly stunned by a right uppercut to the jaw. Shortly thereafter, a barrage of blows sent him through the ropes.

Tate landed face-first on the ring apron, but somehow managed to scramble back into the ring. Referee Eddie Cotton ruled that he'd been pushed, but moments later, Tate went down under fire for the first official knockdown of the fight. The Houston-based veteran got up on shaky legs and hung on until the bell interrupted Sheika's non-stop bombardment.

Tate got off to a good start in the third, repeatedly tagging the Arab-American from Paterson, New Jersey, with sharp right hands, one of which opened a cut over Sheika's left eye. But Sheika, his face a gruesome sight to behold, kept swinging for the fences, and floored Tate again with a crushing left hook. Tate beat the count, survived the crisis, and came back with a right of his own near the end of the round.

There was more vicious two-way action in the fourth, but Tate, 41-6 (28), got the better of it, landing numerous rights to Sheika's already ravaged countenance. When Sheika, 23-3 (16), got back to his corner, Dr. Paul Steinberg stopped the fight, setting off an animated protest from the distraught loser and his corner.

"Yeah, I was fighting with one eye," conceded an emotional Sheika, "but if I had one arm, I'd still be fighting."

"I knew they stopped it because of the eye," said Tate. "But if they hadn't, I was going to keep aiming for the eye. You have to understand, it's a dogfight in there."

Although Sheika's promoter, Dino Duva, said he would protest the stoppage, the decision to terminate matters and award Tate a TKO victory was correct, especially as both of Sheika's wounds had been caused by punches.

"This isn't *Rocky*, it's real life," said Dr. Steinberg, succinctly summing up a situation that had placed Sheika in danger of suffering permanent eye damage.

Promoter: Sugar Ray Leonard Boxing
Television: ESPN2
(10-5-01)
Nigel Collins

Angel Manfredy W 12 Julio Diaz

Corpus Christi, Texas: It was a classic crossroads matchup, with Diaz seemingly on the way up and Manfredy perceived to be on the way down, but both routes were temporarily detoured by their controversial and inconclusive bout at Memorial Coliseum. The 21-year-old Diaz failed to dazzle, yet appeared to most observers to have done enough to win after 12 entertaining rounds. Still, it was the 26-year-old veteran Manfredy who was awarded the hard-to-figure split decision and the IBF's number-one lightweight ranking.

The first round was close, with Diaz, 135, Coachella, California, moving and jabbing consistently, while Manfredy, 134½, Hobart, Indiana, countered in bursts and tried to pin the younger man on the ropes. Ultimately more important, however, than who landed the better legal punches was the fact that Diaz landed a pair of low blows and received two separate warnings from referee Barry Yeats (USA).

Diaz started to take over in the second round, outworking Manfredy while the former "El Diablo" covered up and punched back only sporadically. CompuBox numbers for the third round were telling, with Diaz landing 39 of 121 punches, compared to just 10 of 85 for Manfredy. But Manfredy got back into the fight in the fourth, first by landing a nice left-right combination, and later by absorbing a low left hand that cost Diaz a point.

Early in the fifth, a left uppercut by Diaz opened a cut over Manfredy's right eye, and moments later, a hook by Manfredy did the same to Diaz. Both cuts were in bad spots, but neither was wide enough to threaten a stoppage. Neither man's punches really threatened a stoppage either, as Diaz continued over the next few rounds to outwork Manfredy behind a busy jab that didn't have much on it, while Manfredy kept his hands high and tight in a defensive posture and didn't use them nearly enough for offense.

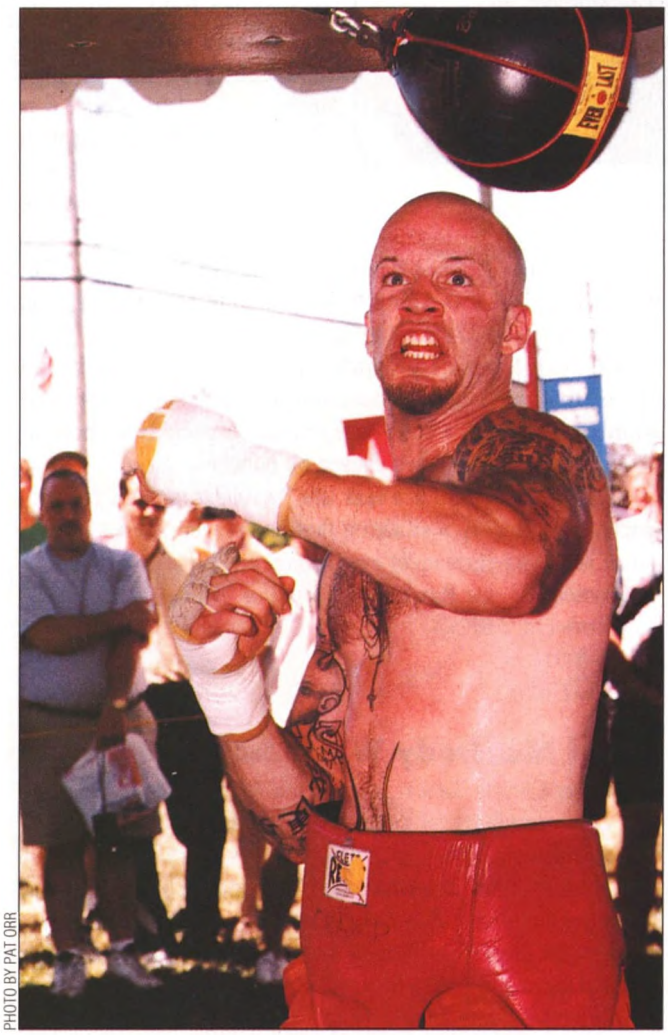


PHOTO BY PAT ORR

Manfredy's diligent training paid off in career-reviving win over Diaz

Just as Diaz was seemingly pulling away, the young Californian was penalized again for a borderline low blow in the ninth, and Manfredy landed enough counter right hands to take the round. The 10th was a close session and the 11th was made close by a crisp right to the jaw by Manfredy late in the round, while the 12th featured probably the best two-way action of the fight.

When it was over, the CompuBox stats favored Diaz heavily, as he landed 99 more punches than his opponent and threw 309 more. THE RING's scorecard also favored "The Kid," giving him a 115-111 victory despite the two penalty points. Dr. Ruben Garcia (USA) turned in a similar 114-112 tally for Diaz, but he was overruled by the surprising scores of Bill Clancy (USA) and Mark Nelson (USA), who had it 114-112 and 115-112, respectively, for Manfredy. Though Manfredy, 39-5-1 (29), deserves credit for giving Diaz, 23-1 (17), a tougher fight than most expected, the Corpus Christi crowd knew who really won and booed the verdict heavily.

Promoters: Top Rank, Sugar Ray Leonard Boxing
Television: HBO
(10-6-01)

Rafael Marquez W 10 Mark Johnson

Corpus Christi, Texas: In one of the biggest upsets of a year that's been full of shockers, two-division former champ Johnson struggled through his 10-rounder with fringe contender Marquez, left the ring believing he'd escaped with a split decision, and found out after leaving Memorial Coliseum that the scores had been retabulated and he'd suffered his first defeat in over 11 years. At age 29 and fighting for the third time since being inactive for 19 months due to an incarceration, Johnson exhibited diminished speed and power, and Marquez capitalized with a determined performance and a strong finish that snagged him by far the biggest win of his up-and-down career.

Pivotal in determining the outcome was the questionable officiating of referee Robert Gonzales (USA), who took a point from Marquez for a low blow in the eighth and two points from Johnson for holding, in the ninth and 10th. Ray Hawkins (USA) scored the bout 94-93 Johnson, Gale Van Hoy (USA) had it 96-91 Marquez, and the card of Lucy Rogers (USA) was originally announced as 97-94 Johnson. But Rogers' score was later corrected as 94-93 Marquez, giving the Mexican longshot the win. THE RING scored for Johnson, 95-94, in this untelevised bout from the Manfredy-Diaz undercard.

The action was slow and tactical in the early going, until Marquez, 118, picked it up late in the third and scored with both hands in getting the better of a crowd-pleasing exchange. The southpaw Johnson, 117¾, Washington, D.C., responded with two excellent right hooks to the ribs in the fourth and staggered Marquez with a right hand in the fifth. During that round, Johnson looked like the "Too Sharp" of old, finding Marquez with everything in his arsenal, most notably the uppercut.

Through seven rounds, Johnson was substantially ahead on two of the scorecards, but he didn't win another round on any

PHOTO BY STEVE MATTEO/HBO

Marquez catches Johnson with a left

of the judges' cards after that. Marquez landed several good right hands early in the eighth, and after suffering a needless point penalty for a borderline-low right hand, he knocked Johnson all the way across the ring and almost down with a right to the point of the chin. In the ninth, Marquez landed a nifty left to the ribs followed by a clean left to the jaw, and it turned into a 10-8 round when Too Sharp lost a point for momentarily placing his 26-year-old opponent in a headlock.

The 10th round was a thriller, as both men rocked each other in wild, desperate exchanges. The round was close, but Johnson's fate was sealed when Gonzales took a bogus point for holding with just 10 seconds to go. The loss dropped Johnson to 40-2 (27) with 1 no-contest, while Marquez raised his slate to 26-3 (24). A rematch was signed less than two weeks later for February 23 on HBO.

Promoter: Top Rank

(10-6-01)

Winky Wright W 12 Robert Frazier

Indio, California: After 11 years as a pro, 45 fights, two unsuccessful title challenges, and a two-year run with the lesser WBO title, the 29-year-old Wright finally became a recognized world champion with his casual domination of the outclassed Frazier at Fantasy Springs Casino. The skillful southpaw from St. Petersburg, Florida, claimed the vacant IBF junior middleweight title (given up by Felix Trinidad when he rose to middleweight) by pitching a near shutout against Frazier. Lou Moret (USA) gave Wright every round in scoring it 120-107, while Pat Russell (USA) and Jose Cobian (USA) both saw it 119-108.

The only real highlight of the mostly dull bout came in the first round, when Wright, 153¾, caught Frazier, 153, Rochester, New York, on the jaw with a short left cross late in the round, knocking him to the canvas. Frazier got up quickly and didn't seem hurt, but he could never get into the fight, thanks to Wright's busy jab and slick defense.

Frazier, 27, tried to flurry in the second round, but very little landed, and "Pushup's" punch output gradually dropped as the fight wore on. Frazier did put on a nifty defensive display in the seventh round, when Wright had him under fire in the corner and the New Yorker dropped his hands and ducked all of Wright's offerings. Still, Wright's jab scored cleanly enough to win nearly every round, and in the 12th, Wright landed an excellent right hook to put somewhat of an exclamation point on his performance. It wasn't an especially impressive showing for Wright, 42-3 (24), but he didn't need to be at his best to tame Frazier, 23-5-2 (13), who really didn't belong at the top of the IBF's ratings.

With the win, Wright positioned himself for a possible high-profile defense against Sugar Shane Mosley. So as easy as winning this title was for Wright, holding on to it might be quite the opposite.

The referee was Jon Schorle (USA).

Promoter: Top Rank

Television: ESPN2

(10-12-01)

Raul Balbi W 12 Julien Lorcy

Paris, France: A courageous stand and the passionate support of a capacity crowd at the Palais Des Sports could not save Lorcy, 134½, France, from yielding the WBA lightweight title to Balbi, 134½, Argentina, by majority decision in a battle that brought credit to both men. It was the first attempted defense of Lorcy's second reign.

The Frenchman had to overcome Balbi's prodigious powerpunches as well as lacerations above both eyes, which frequently left his face a bloody mess. Valiantly, he stuck to his task when lesser fighters would have submitted under the volume and force of Balbi's blows. The 28-year-old Argentinian, meanwhile, refused to be frustrated by Lorcy's defiance or to succumb to the pressure of what was for him a hostile environment. Comfortably ahead on points, he would not wilt in a tumultuous final round in which Lorcy, 29, tried steadfastly to rescue the title.

As early as the third round, Balbi's strong, accurate punch-

PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

Balbi drops Lorcy in the seventh

ing had cut up the champion's face, wounds above and below his left eye causing him severe problems for almost the entire duration of the fight. Balbi's left hand was formidable, particularly in the form of hooks and uppercuts, but it was his right hand that caused extensive damage to Lorcy in the seventh and almost ended the fight. Lorcy had landed a hard right moments earlier, but Balbi's solid chin absorbed it well and his own right put the Frenchman down for a count of four, the bell coming to his rescue.

In the eighth round, referee Rafael Ramos (USA) came close to stepping in to save Lorcy, 48-3-2 (34), from the mounting punishment, and the ringside physician at one point made a close examination of the cuts around both eyes. He was allowed to continue and courageously tried to stage a dramatic comeback, particularly in the last round, but Balbi, 48-4-1 (33), held firm.

Henk Meijers (Holland) scored 117-110, and Gustavo Padilla (Panama) had it 115-112, both for Balbi. Ken Morita (Japan) was far too kind to Lorcy, scoring 114-114.

Promoter: AB Stars Productions
(10-8-01)
Brian Doogan

Eidy Moya KO 11 Adan Vargas

McAllen, Texas: You're always suspicious when the Venezuela-based WBA makes a Venezuelan fighter its number-one contender, as the alphabet organization frequently bends over backward to favor its countrymen. But following his 11th-round knockout of Vargas to claim the vacant 118-pound belt, Moya appeared worthy of his lofty placement.

Moya and Vargas were fighting for the title the WBA had spuriously stripped from Paulie Ayala, but there was nothing bogus about the see-saw bout. After a cautious opener, Moya darted a right between Vargas' gloves in the second that landed on the Mexican's chin and dropped him. Vargas didn't seem hurt, but had difficulty landing his own punches, as over the next few rounds Moya jumped around the ring as if he had springs attached to his boxing boots, stopping every now and then to throw a quick punch or two.

By the sixth round, both of Vargas' eyes were beginning to swell, and he came out for the seventh with renewed intensity. A cluster of shots buzzed around Moya's head, and he fell to the canvas. It looked like a slip, but referee Laurence Cole (USA) ruled it had been a knockdown and administered the compulsory eight-count.

Vargas, 27, kept plugging away and finally broke though in the ninth, backing Moya into the ropes and rocking him several times with solid shots to the head. He also dug some hard blows to the body, and at the end of the round Moya, 27, looked a bit weary.

The combatants treated the fans at the Del Villa Real SEC to more heated action in the 10th, with first Vargas landing to the body, then Moya retaliating with blows to the head. It was Vargas' turn again when a left hook to the head had Moya looking unsteady for a few seconds, but before the round was over, Moya was punching back.

Going into the 11th, it seemed as if Vargas might be wearing Moya down, but that perception was dramatically altered when the Venezuelan shook his foe with a left hook, and shortly thereafter connected with a searing straight right to the jaw. Vargas went down hard, clearly hurt, and although he bravely tried to beat the count, his arms were still dangling at his sides when Cole reached 10.

The win lifted Moya's record to 15-1 (8), while Vargas slipped to 36-3-1 (22). Judging by his performance in this fight, Moya, whose lone loss was to current IBF 115-pound champ Felix Machado in a non-title bout, would be a formidable opponent for either IBF titlist Tim Austin or WBC boss Veerapol Sahaprom.

Promoter: America Presents
Television: FOX SportsNet
(10-14-01)

Pongsaklek Wonjongkam Tech. Win 8 Alex Ali Baba

Hat Yai, Thailand: Southpaw Thailander Pongsaklek (who also goes by such nom-de-guerres as Pongsaklek Singwangcha and Pongsaklek Kratingdaeng-Gym) successfully kept the WBC flyweight throne as he battered Ghanan top contender Baba and was awarded a unanimous technical decision after the fight was stopped due to a nasty cut in the eighth round.

Pongsaklek, making his second defense since his coronation on an upset first round demolition of Filipino Malcolm Tunacao last March, began trading with the onrushing chal-

(Continued on page 88)

THE KNOCKOUT MAGAZINE

In Knockout Color ... At Knockout Savings!

Subscribe Today And Save $5

Subscribe to *KO* for six issues and pocket a cool savings of nearly five bucks, plus you'll enjoy the convenience of getting *KO* delivered to your door. It couldn't be easier.

KO has entertained and informed fight fans for a generation with its trademark of excellence—the most informed feature writers, controversial columnists, and accomplished photographers. Now *KO* offers this package in an all-color, glossy format!

KO The Boxing Fans' Magazine

Send to:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2021
Marion, OH 43306-8121

SAVE ALMOST $5.00!

☐ YES! I would like to receive 6 issues of *KO* for $19.00!

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card # _____

Expiration Date: ___/___ MO/YR

Signature: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT. ____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Price applies in U.S. only. Canada and all foreign countries: $23.80 ($34.00 airmail). International money orders in U.S. funds only for all orders outside U.S. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

A1201R

5383/09-00/4-c

Ringside Reports

(Continued from page 86)

PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

Pongsaklek dominated Baba en route to second title defense

lenger from the outset, and took the initiative with his more accurate combinations. The second and third sessions saw Baba continuing to come forward, but Pongsaklek, who figures to reign awhile thanks to his crisp punching and tight defense, outboxed him and countered effectively. In the fourth, Pongsaklek, nine years his opponent's junior at 24, sustained a gash over the left eyebrow due to an accidental butt, and the referee took a point from Baba. In the fifth, the Thailander shook Baba up with southpaw lefts and followed up with left-right combos. But Baba kept boring in and won a point with his aggressiveness in the sixth.

The lefty champ turned loose in the eighth, when he swarmed over the Ghanan with a flurry of punches. But his assault was abruptly stopped, as the third man saw Pongsaklek streaming blood too profusely to go on and declared a halt.

The technical decision went unanimously to Pongsaklek, 42-2 (24). Masakazu Kanaya (Japan) and Franz Marti (Switzerland) both had it 79-73, and Gus Mercurio (Australia) saw it 79-71. Baba, whose corner claimed that the gash was caused by legal punches, fell to 18-2 (14).

(10-26-01)

Joe Koizumi

Francisco Bojado KO 1 Mauro Lucero

Las Vegas, Nevada: Having accrued only 13 rounds of experience in his first eight pro fights, 18-year-old sensation "Panchito" Bojado was hoping to get some rounds in against by far his most experienced foe to date, former world title challenger Lucero. Unfortunately, it seems like the only way for Bojado to get rounds in is to not throw any punches, because every time he does, opponents collapse. And Lucero, despite being a 10-year veteran with five times as many fights under his belt as Bojado, collapsed more easily than most.

Fighting on his biggest stage yet, as the co-feature to the Kostya Tszyu-Zab Judah bout, Bojado, 142, Commerce, California (via Guadalajara, Mexico), was patient at the outset, as if cognizant of the fact that letting his hands go could end matters before he would get any practice in. He circled and sized up Lucero, 141, Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, for the first two minutes, before landing his first hard shot, a quick left hook to the temple, just above the right eye. Lucero, 29, took a step back and then, seeing Bojado moving in to follow up, dropped to a knee as Bojado missed with a right hand. Lucero quickly fell on his face and barely moved while referee Kenny Bayless (USA) counted him out at the 2:14 mark.

The crowd at the MGM Grand booed as they watched replays of Lucero's delayed-reaction capitulation, but according to ringside physician Dr. Margaret Goodman, Lucero, 34-9-1 (22), wasn't faking.

"It was legitimate," Goodman said. "He felt like his eye exploded. He was looking for his eye. He wanted to make sure it was still there. He went down to avoid further punishment."

Bojado, 9-0 (9), was disappointed that Lucero was unable to offer stiffer resistance.

"I didn't hit him with everything. I expected him to get up," Bojado said. "I wanted more rounds, because that is the way I'll get more experience."

Television: Showtime

Promoter: Main Events

(11-3-01)

Bojado prepares to pounce on Lucero

OFFICIAL AUTOGRAPH ENDORSEMENT

The Showplace of Boxing — Canastota, NY — Boxing Hall of Fame

International Boxing Hall of Fame

Limited Autograph Souvenirs

Boxing Greats Helping Support the Museum

Letter of Authenticity accompanies each item

EVERLAST SPEED BAG

$195

Autographed by 24 "Greats"

Leonard ★ Lyle ★ Ramos ★ Gavilan ★ Terrell ★ Leon Spinks ★ Michael Spinks ★ Basilio ★ Shavers ★ Pryor ★ Laguna ★ Fullmer ★ Norris ★ Dundee ★ Chuvalo ★ Buchanan ★ Foster ★ Barkley ★ Torres ★ Olivares ★ Ortiz ★ Trinidad ★ Griffith ★ Norton ★

GIANT GOLD GLOVE

$225

Autographed by 24 "Greats"

Chuvalo ★ Gavilan ★ Olivares ★ Trinidad ★ Norton ★ Barkley ★ Shavers ★ Michael Spinks ★ Pryor ★ Leonard ★ Terrell ★ Griffith ★ Ortiz ★ Laguna ★ Dundee ★ Fullmer ★ Norris ★ Ramos ★ Foster ★ Lyle ★ Leon Spinks ★ Torres ★ Buchanan ★ Basilio ★

'76 OLYMPIC ANNIVERSARY

Gold medal winners on one red Everlast glove)

$125

★ Sugar Ray Leonard
★ Leon Spinks
★ Michael Spinks
★ Howard Davis, Jr.

EVERLAST BANNER

$125

Autographed by 24 "Greats"

Norton ★ Chuvalo ★ Pryor ★ Basilio ★ Olivares ★ Barkley ★ Griffith ★ Ortiz ★ Leonard ★ Michael Spinks ★ Terrell ★ Shavers ★ Torres ★ Fullmer ★ Laguna ★ Lyle ★ Gavilan ★ Ramos ★ Trinidad ★ Buchanan ★ Foster ★ Dundee ★ Leon Spinks ★ Norris ★

AUTOGRAPH GLOVES

$75

(single autograph on Everlast glove)

★ Earnie Shavers
★ Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini
★ Carmen Basilio
★ Leon Spinks
★ Michael Spinks
★ Alexis Arguello
★ Aaron Pryor
★ Christy Martin
★ Willie Pep
★ "Marvelous" Marvin Hagler
★ Ken Norton
★ Virgil Hill
★ David Reid
★ Michael Carbajal
★ Kid Gavilan
★ Bernard Hopkins
★ Floyd Patterson
★ Buddy McGirt
★ Hector "Macho" Camacho
★ Johnny Tapia
★ Ken Buchanan
★ Danny "Little Red" Lopez
★ Angel Manfredy
★ Terry Norris
★ Angelo Dundee
★ Sugar Ray Leonard

COMBINATION GLOVES

(two autographs on Everlast glove)

$95

★ Basilio - Saxton
★ Basilio - Fullmer
★ Michael & Leon Spinks
★ Basilio - DeMarco

BOXING TRUNKS

(autographs on Everlast trunks)

★ Kid Gavilan
★ Christy Martin
★ Michael Spinks

$75

10TH ANNIVERSARY BELT

$395

1989-1999

'89-'99

Boxing Hall of Fame

Limited Series

CHAMPIONSHIP GLOVE

All 25 autographs on red Everlast glove

$195

Antuofermo ★ Torres ★ Norris ★ Ortiz ★ Olivares ★ Basilio ★ Terrell ★ Barkley ★ Leon Spinks ★ Shavers ★ Dundee ★ Gavilan ★ Foster ★ Griffith ★ Laguna ★ Fullmer ★ Buchanan ★ Hamed ★ Ramos ★ Lyle ★ Pryor ★ Norton ★ Chuvalo ★ Leonard ★ Michael Spinks

EVERLAST CORNER POST

$235

Autographed by 22 greats:

Gavilan ★ Torres ★ Norris ★ Lyle ★ Leon Spinks ★ Terrell ★ Pryor ★ Buchanan ★ Ortiz ★ Basilio ★ Griffith ★ Fullmer ★ Olivares ★ Laguna ★ Ramos ★ Shavers ★ Foster ★ Norton ★ Leonard ★ Michael Spinks ★ Dundee ★ Chuvalo ★

BOXING ROBE

All autographs on Everlast robe

$235

Arguello ★ Barkley ★ Basilio ★ Buchanan ★ Chandler ★ Chuvalo ★ Frazier ★ Fullmer ★ Griffith ★ Hagler ★ LaPorte ★ Leonard ★ Lopez ★ Lyle ★ Norris ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Ortiz ★ Patterson ★ Pryor ★ Shavers ★ Leon Spinks ★ Michael Spinks ★ Terrell ★ Torres ★ Trinidad

HAGLER & LEONARD

★ Both champions on red Everlast glove ★

$125

Hagler

Leonard

★ Limited Quantity ★

HEAVYWEIGHT GLOVE

(Autographing on red Everlast glove)

Ken Norton ★ Floyd Patterson
Leon Spinks ★ Michael Spinks
Joe Frazier ★ Earnie Shavers
★ Ron Lyle ★ Ernie Terrell ★ George Chuvalo ★

$150

Phone Orders: (315) 697-7095
Fax (315) 697-5356

Make checks payable to:
BOXING HALL OF FAME
1 Hall of Fame Drive
Canastota, NY 13032

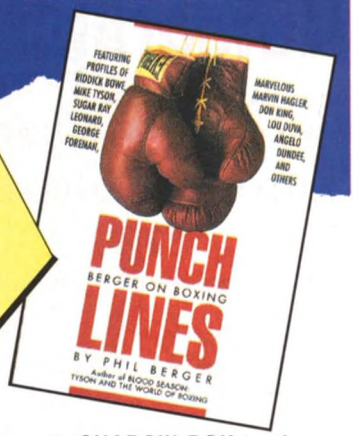
MasterCard VISA

Please add 7% Sales Tax
and $7.00 per item for shipping in U.S.
Call for International shipping rates

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

OUR BIGGEST BOXING BOOK SALE EVER!

Every Book Priced Well Below Retail!



BOXING CLEVER by Ralph Oates. So, you think you know a thing or two about the heavyweight division? With more than 1,600 multiple-choice questions and answers devoted exclusively to the big boys, you can test your boxing acumen and quiz your friends. This quiz book is the perfect preamble to a pay-per-view gathering with your boxing buddies. Softcovered. 171 pages.
BOOK #5454—$7.50

PUNCH LINES: BERGER ON BOXING by Phil Berger. A knockout collection of essays by the former boxing writer for *The New York Times*. Berger takes the reader out of the gym and into the personal lives, intimate thoughts, and emotions of many of the better-known (and some of the not-so-well-known) fighters, trainers, and managers. 17 photos. 328 pages.
BOOK #5151—$21.95

BEST OF THE RING: RECAPTURING 70 YEARS OF BOXING CLASSICS by Stanley Weston. This second edition includes the original 83 "Best Of" articles, personally selected by Publisher Stanley Weston, plus a new section on Mike Tyson's return to the ring. The "Best Of" articles were pulled from nearly 900 back issues of *The Ring* and cover every facet of boxing. Every article and photograph is reproduced exactly as it originally appeared. Fully illustrated. 296 pages.
BOOK #707—$27.45

THE PRIZEFIGHTERS by Arlene Schulman. This remarkable collection of simple, direct, and eloquent photographs chronicles the life of the prizefighter—in and out of the ring. Fans of boxing and lovers of fine photographs will cherish this unique book. 176 pages.
BOOK #1515—$22.95

SHADOW BOX by George Plimpton. One of Plimpton's most engaging looks at professional sport through the eyes of an amateur. Stepping into the ring with former light heavyweight champion Archie Moore, Plimpton pauses to wonder why he ever became a participatory journalist—and brings back this timeless look at boxing and its devotees. 351 pages.
BOOK #1616—$11.95

DAN STUART'S FISTIC CARNIVAL by Leo N. Miletich. Stuart, a turn-of-the-century gambler turned boxing promoter, dreamed of promoting a bout between reigning heavyweight champions Jim Corbett and Bob Fitzsimmons. He eventually succeeded, but the trip from conception to realization was a bizarre one. 243 pages.
BOOK #1717—$24.50

YES, I would like to order the book(s) I have indicated below. I have enclosed a check or money order made payable to London Publishing Co. or provided my credit card information to charge my purchase.

Name _____

Address / Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

❑ VISA # _____

❑ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: _____ / _____ MO/YR

Signature: _____

❑ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

SEND TO:

London Publishing Co., P.O. Box 910, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

QTY	BOOK #	TITLE	PRICE

Sub-total

Postage & Handling, add $2.50 per book

For orders outside the U.S. add $5 for each book ordered

TOTAL ENCLOSED

Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. International money orders in U.S. funds only.

5436/01-01/4c

New Face

(Continued from page 16)

or father again. They let us out of the truck and they started counting us. I didn't know where I was."

Ouma quickly learned not to cry, because every time he did, a soldier would slap his face and yell, "You think your mommy's here, shut up!" Ouma was still in his school uniform, a child preparing to be a soldier in a war he knew nothing about. He had no covering on cold nights, food was scarce, and being among the youngest in the group, he would not be handed anything.

Ouma was given chores to perform every day, and part of staying alive was training with guns. He tried escaping a few times, but was caught, since he was so easy to detect in his school uniform. Those caught escaping were not killed by the NRA, however, because the group needed manpower, and were, according to Ouma, against shooting their own people.

By the time Ouma was 10, he was a soldier on the front lines, involved in combat against government forces. Whatever got in the way of either side—women, children, or old men—were expendable.

"I look back and shake my head," Ouma said. "I've seen people killed. I've seen people kill each other. I've seen children killed, women killed. I got used to it all. You get used to seeing dead bodies. You get used to the bombing every day. I am a religious person, so I prayed a lot. When I fight in the ring, I think of the time I was in the jungle. It makes me take boxing not that hard, because before I did things just to live every day."

Ouma didn't see his family for three years after he was kidnapped, and when he was finally allowed to visit home, his mother, Nakagwa, wanted to rip off his army uniform and take away his gun. Ouma, though, had come to think like a soldier and was, by then, dedicated to the NRA cause, which eventually took over Uganda and forced Obote to take refuge in Zimbabwe.

"I became brave. I caught that spirit of being a soldier and fighting the bad guys," Ouma said. "My mother, she didn't understand. All she knew was that they took her little boy away. At first, I didn't cooperate with them. But when I got older, I understood what they were doing, trying to take over the government. I didn't like what they

did to me, but I see now. They took over the government and helped the country."

During his service in the military, Ouma found boxing. At first, he was afraid of stepping into the ring at the Military School Championships, but that changed in '94.

"I was a soldier and my friend said that I was afraid to fight, but I decided to do it," Ouma said. He was studying tae kwon do, his childhood passion, but gave it up when boxing grabbed his interest.

Southpaw Ouma rose quickly through the amateur ranks, and when he reached 17, he won the national flyweight title and became a member of the Ugandan Olympic team headed to Atlanta for the 1996 Games. Or so Ouma thought. A lack of funds prevented Ouma from competing. Since Uganda is a poor, third-world nation, the country's sports committee had only enough money to send two fighters, and Ouma wasn't one of them.

"I felt I was good enough," Ouma said. "It was a really tough time for me, but I'm used to tough times. You want a break from things, but I haven't had a time yet when I haven't gone through tough times. I'm still struggling. Hopefully, if I make it as world champion, I'll get a little break then."

Ouma defected to the United States in 1998, while visiting the U.S. as a member of Uganda's national team.

"I was trying to improve my career, and you can't turn pro in Uganda when you're in the military," Ouma reasoned. "The whole thing for me was to see if I could make it as a pro."

But the decision to defect did not come without grave consequences, as Ouma would be arrested if he returned to Uganda. He was forced to leave his now-four-year-old son, Omar Ojambo, back in Uganda under the care of his mother, who is compelled to hide Omar at night so he is not kidnapped by raiding criminals. The last time Ouma saw his son was when he was eight months old. Tragically, Ouma's father was beaten to death in '00, and the very forces Ouma risked his life to put into power he now opposes.

"I fought with men who broke into schools and took kids," Ouma said. "They do it for the country, and there are still men who do it. I couldn't do it, and I wouldn't let anyone else do it. I'm the one who stopped people from doing it when I was in the military. I don't want any of the things that happened to me to happen to my son. That's why I want to become a world champion, so I can have the money and get my son back."

The 5'8" Ouma has a strong team supporting him, including Robinson, Bumphus, manager Jim Rowan, and J Russell Peltz, who signed Ouma to a promotional contract in late-October. Ouma, 13-1-1 (9), has already built a nice resume, which includes victories over such solid fighters as Tony Marshall, Verno Phillips, and Alex Bunema.

"I like Ouma, I think he's a real prospect in that division," ESPN2 *Friday Night Fights* ringside analyst Teddy Atlas said. "He's young, he has ability, he punches well, he has nice size for that division, and the temperament of a fighter. Through good and bad, he doesn't panic. He's pleasing, too, even as a lefthander.

"The only thing he needs to improve upon is in the defensive area. He likes to pose a little bit after he throws his punches. Part of his temperament is that he doesn't waste many punches. He's very controlled. He could use that energy on the defensive end. You can still be brave and not get hit, but I would never want to take that temperament away from a fighter."

Bumphus agrees. He once saw Ouma sparring with light heavyweight contender Richard Hall, and holding his own against the much larger man.

"Kassim fears no one, especially in that ring," Bumphus said.

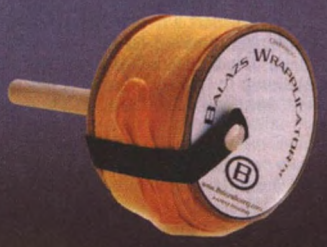
Being bold can have its drawbacks. Ouma learned from his one pro loss, a first-round knockout to Agustin Silva in November '99, that a little fear in the ring is a good thing because it makes a fighter more conscious of defense. But Ouma's attacking style will never change. It can't. It's a part of him, like his troubled past.

"I try to forget a little bit at a time," Ouma said of his war-torn childhood. "I'm trying to make it for the young ones left there in Uganda, so that they don't go through the same things I went through. I'm fighting to make a success of myself here so I can help those children, including my son. I saw little kids have heart attacks, they were so scared. Boxing is not like war. It's not like being on the front line, shooting a gun, so there's nothing I'm afraid of in the ring. The only thing I'm afraid of is God." ■

BALAZS BOXING

Increasing your expectations

Balazs Universal Boxing Stands™ redefine Solid. Modular so you can configure to suit your needs.



The Wrapplicator™ hand wrap tool gets hand wraps on and off fast, so you can focus on training.

Balazs Rings set up quickly and easily. They're strong and commanding, like the boxers they support.

(888) 466-6765 • BoxingSource.com

WORLD BOXING BACK ISSUES

For more than 25 years WORLD BOXING has earned respect for its ability to cover the big fights and speculate on the future of the sport and its stars. Back issues of WORLD BOXING are available in limited quantity. Don't delay—order today!

May 1979: Sugar Ray Leonard: Is He More Popular Than Ali? Plus: Howard Davis Jr., Cooney, Knoetze, Benitez.

May 1981: WBC Welterweight Champion Sugar Ray Leonard: An Uncertain Future. Plus: Weaver, Gato Gonzalez, Hagler-Obel, Armstrong.

July 1981: Eddie Mustafa Muhammad: "My Challenge To The Heavyweight Champions." Plus: Dokes, Gato Gonzalez, Verderosa.

Sept. 1981: Giant Gerry Cooney: Lethal, Awesome, Ready. Plus: Mustafa Muhammad, Mancini, Benitez, Pryor.

Sept. 1982: Why Ray Leonard Must Never Fight Again, By Harold Weston Jr. Plus: Shavers, Mike McCallum, Alex Ramos, Basilio.

Jan. 1983: Thomas Hearns' Crucial Challenge Of Wilfred Benitez: Can The Hitman Slay The Dragon? Plus: Juan LaPorte, Spinks-Braxton, Ruben Munoz, Roger Mayweather.

May 1983: Dwight Muhammad Qawi vs. Michael Spinks: The Greatest Light Heavyweight Matchup In History. Plus: Arguello, Clint Jackson, Coetzee, nicknames.

July 1983: Spinks vs. Qawi: The Brawl For It All. Plus: Duran-Moore, Jerome Coffee, Verderosa-O'Grady.

Sept. 1983: Larry Holmes: Fading At 33? Plus: Dokes, Page, Gomez-LaPorte, McCallum.

Nov. 1983: Exclusive Interview With Marvelous Marvin Hagler. Plus: Holmes-Marvis Frazier preview, Hamsho-Benitez, Spinks-Mustafa Muhammad, Tony Ayala Jr.

Dec. 1983: What I Learned And Why I'll Come Back All The Way, By Gerry Cooney. Plus: Hagler-Duran, McCrory-Jones, Richard Savage.

Jan. 1984: Pryor-Arguello II. Plus: Mancini-Chacon, Coetzee, LaRocca, Mancini.

Feb. 1984: Gerrie Coetzee Looks Toward Larry Holmes: Headed For The Explosive Heavyweight Superfight. Plus: Sibson, Foreman, Pryor, Aquino, Joe Frazier.

April 1984: Year In Review: Color/Larry Holmes. Plus: Leonard's Comeback, Chandler-Muniz.

Sept. 1984: The Comeback Of Sugar Ray Leonard. Color/Wilfredo Gomez. Plus: Dokes, McCrory, Curry.

Nov. 1984: Aaron Pryor: A Superstar In Search Of A Showdown. Plus: Bramble, Costello-Shields, LaMotta, Tucker, Hagler, Holmes-Coetzee.

Dec. 1984: John Mugabi Feasts On Animal Fletcher: The Beast Is Hungry For Big Game. Color/Ray Leonard. Plus: Duran, Hagler-Hearns.

Jan. 1985: Thomas Hearns Sends A Message To Marvin Hagler: "The Hitman Will Get You Next!" Plus: Pinklon Thomas, Harry Arroyo, Bey, Bramble-Crawley.

Feb. 1985: Marvin Hagler Vows: "Thomas Hearns Is Doomed!" Plus: Cooney, Hearns, Mugabi, Ray Seales, McCallum.

March 1985: Blood And Guts Against The Bonecrusher: Larry Holmes-A Champion Ready To Fall? Plus: Sugar Ray, Olympians, "Upset Saturday," Meza.

April 1985: Cooney vs. Page: The $10-Million Challenge! Plus: Hagler-Hearns, Year In Review.

May 1985: Who's The Baddest? Preview Of The Hagler-Hearns Superfight. Plus: Hector Camacho, Arroyo-Alli, boxing mysteries.

June 1985: Donald Curry: A Hot Fighter As Cool As Ice. Plus: Hagler-Hearns, Page, Coetzee, Carl Williams.

July 1985: Sensational Hector Camacho: Poised For The Lightweight Throne. Plus: Mugabi, Holmes, Superfights, Curry, Cooney.

Sept. 1985: A Career In Ruins? Gerry Cooney: Time Is Running Out. Plus: Holmes-Williams, Hearns, Overrated & Underrated.

Oct. 1985: Pinklon Thomas: "I'm The Real Heavyweight Champion." Plus: Holmes, McGuigan-Pedroza, Pryor, Costello.

Nov. 1985: Can Larry Holmes Break "The Record"? Plus: Chavez, Boza-Edwards, McGuigan-Taylor, Hagler.

Dec. 1985: Special Previews: Hagler vs. Mugabi, Hearns vs. Shuler. Plus: Camacho-Ramirez, Pintor, McGirt.

Jan. 1986: Curry & McCrory Clash For The Undisputed Welterweight Crown. Plus: Camacho, Breland, Holmes-Spinks, Benitez.

Feb. 1986: Heavyweight King Michael Spinks: His Formula For A Successful Title Reign. Plus: McGuigan, Azumah Nelson, Camacho, Paul.

March 1986: Michael Spinks' Own Story: From The Streetlight To The Spotlight. Plus: McGuigan, Camacho-Rosario, Whitaker.

April 1986: Donald Curry Demolishes Milton McCrory: The Cobra's Most Marvelous Fight Is Yet To Come. Plus: Tyson, McGuigan, Gomez, Spinks, Year In Review.

June 1986: Electrifying!!! Mike Tyson Explodes On Network TV. Plus: Arguello, Bramble, Curry-McCallum, Matthew Hilton.

July 1986: Hagler & Hearns Roar To The Rematch. Plus: Tyson, Lalonde, Curry, Sandoval, Azumah.

Sept. 1986: Mike Tyson Shows He's Mortal ... But He's Still Headed For Immortality. Plus: Hilton, Hagler, Pazienza, Frank Bruno, Espinoza.

Oct. 1986: Hector "Macho" Camacho Retains His Title, But Loses His Nickname. Plus: Mike Tyson, Michael Olajide Jr., Gerry Cooney.

Nov. 1986: World Boxing Exclusive: Gerry Cooney Speaks Out. Plus: Tyson-Frazier, Stevie Cruz, Holyfield, McGuigan.

Dec. 1986: Mike Tyson's Drive To The Title: Ruthless, Brutal, Unstoppable. Plus: Hagler-Leonard, Meldrick Taylor, Hearns, Biggs.

Jan. 1987: The Formidable Mike Tyson: Primed For His Title Challenge. Plus: Michael Spinks, Pazienza, Czyz, Curry-Honeyghan, Hagler-Leonard, Berbick-Tyson.

Feb. 1987: Mark Breland: The Class Of '84. Plus: Hearns, Honeyghan, Camacho-Rosario, Olympians.

March 1987: Year In Review. Plus: Marvin Johnson, Tyson-Berbick, Holmes.

April 1987: Tyson vs. Bonecrusher: Who Will Survive Their Unification War? Plus: Hagler-Leonard, Haugen, Mugabi, Chavez.

May 1987: Hagler-Leonard: Super Fight Or Super Slaughter? Plus: Tyson, Chris Reid, The Dynamite Dozen.

June 1987: Shining Stars: Pazienza, Holyfield, Curry. Plus: Hagler-Leonard, Czyz.

July 1987: After The Bonecrusher Bore: Mike Tyson's Task-Rekindle The Excitement. Plus: Hearns, Foreman's comeback, Biggs, Spinks-Cooney.

Aug. 1987: The Return Of The Sugar Man: After Conquering Hagler, Now Aiming For Hearns? Plus: Boxing Lists, Spinks-Cooney, McCallum.

Sept. 1987: Mike Olajide Goes To War: "The Silk" Shows He's More Than Just Style. Plus: Holyfield, Duane Thomas, McCallum, Dream Fights.

Oct. 1987: Erasing The Doubts—Vinny Pazienza Proves He's A Phenom, Not A Phony. Plus: Tyson, Truth Williams-Bert Cooper, Spinks-Cooney, Foreman.

Nov. 1987: Down And Out In Las Vegas: Donald Curry's Crushing Fall. Plus: Duarte-Davila, Hearns, Meldrick Taylor.

Dec. 1987: Tyson vs. Biggs: The Frazier-Ali Of The '80s? Plus: Holyfield, Lora, Shawn O'Sullivan, Hardest Hitters.

June 1989: Ranking Today's Top 30 Fighters. Plus: Taylor-Meekins, Starling-Honeyghan, Leonard-Hearns, Johnny Bos.

Aug. 1989: Leonard-Hearns: Dressed To Kill. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Larry Holmes, Michael Nunn.

Oct. 1989: Power! What Gives A Punch Its Cruch? Plus: Ray Robinson, Watson-Benn, Virgil Hill, Nunn-Barkley, Emile Griffith.

Dec. 1989: On The Money! Mike Tyson Kayos Carl Williams. Plus: Summe Sizzlers color insert, Julian Jackson, Anthony Hembrick, Camacho-Pazienza.

Feb. 1990: Leonard-Duran: An Analysis Of The Grudge Match. Plus: Leonard-Duran color insert, Whitaker vs. Nelson, Tyson, Starling.

April 1990: Year-End Special: A Division-By-Division Analysis. Plus: Year-End color insert, Michael Spinks the heavyweight legends reunite, A Certo.

June 1990: George Foreman-The World Is Falling At His Feet. Plus: Re Hot Heavyweights color insert, Holyfie Biggs, Richie Sandoval.

Oct. 1990: The Real Deal: Why Buste Douglas Will Whip Evander Holyfield. Plus: Graziano remembered, Whitake Nelson, Ken Norton, Terry Norris, Jame J. Corbett.

Dec. 1990: Buster Douglas: Did H Leave His Best In Tokyo? Plus: Rog Mayweather, James J. Jeffries, The Ye That Was: 1978.

Feb. 1991: For The Best Of Tw Divisions, All Roads Lead To Chave Plus: Paez-Lopez, Glenwood Brow Leonard-Norris preview, Jack Johnson.

April 1991: Boxing's Bible Belter: Th Inner Strength Of Evander Holyfie Plus: Michael Carbajal, The Lope Mitchell showdown, 1990 in review, Ja Dempsey, Are boxers overpaid?

June 1991: Evander Holyfield's Tas How To Get Rid Of 260 Pounds Flab In Five Minutes. Plus: Exper choose boxing's best, Meldrick Tayl Hearns-Hill preview, Max Schmeling.

Aug. 1991: Tyson The Terrible: Migh Mike Is Boxing's Baddest Man Agai Plus: Roberto Duran, Lindell Holme Julio Cesar Chavez, Primo Carner Muhammad Ali.

Oct. 1991: 12 Angry Men—Th Meanest Fighters In Boxing. Plu Braddock, Mercer-Morrison, Orlan Canizales, Meanest Fighters Ever, Ye That Was: 1967.

Dec. 1991: Will A Few More Of The Finish Off Mike Tyson? Plus: Ezza Charles, Foreman, Holyfield-Tyso Floyd Patterson, John David Jackson.

Feb. 1992: Can Boxing Survi Without Mike Tyson? Plus: Julio Jackson, Mitchell-Lopez, Marciano, T Year That Was: 1972.

April 1992: Evander Holyfield: Wi Every Win, He Loses Respect. Pl Ingemar Johansson, Rock Newma year-end review and look ahea Dempsey-Firpo.

June 1992: Boxing's Thrill-A-Minute Champion: How Much Time Is Left For Meldrick Taylor? Plus: Muhammad Ali, Holyfield-Bowe, Iran Barkley, Kelcie Banks, Jemal Hinton.

Aug. 1992: Holmes Challenges Holyfield: The Old Man Has A Chance If ... Plus: Iran Barkley, Eddie Cook, The Year That Was: 1952, George Foreman.

Oct. 1992: Michael Moorer Explodes! The Heavyweight With A Short Fuse. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Norris-Taylor, Riddick Bowe, The Year That Was: 1961.

Dec. 1992: Mike Tyson: He Could Get Out. Plus: Tony Tucker, Eddie Hopson, Ruddock-Lewis preview.

Feb. 1993: Chavez Tortures Camacho: Can He Become Greater Than Sugar Ray Robinson? Plus: Michael Nunn, Tim Littles, trainers, Foreman-Morrison preview.

April 1993: Riddick Bowe & Lennox Lewis Lead The Heavyweight Resurgence. Plus: Bowe-Holyfield round 10, Jemal Hinton, Dave Tiberi.

June 1993: The Old Man And The Fee: At $5-Million Per, George Foreman Will Never Retire. Plus: Morrison-Williams, Genaro Hernandez, Terry Norris.

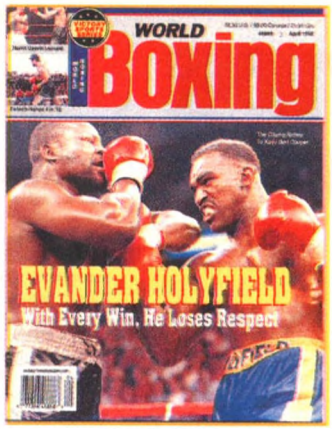
Aug. 1993: Bowe, No! Can Jesse Ferguson Be 1993's Buster Douglas? Plus: Carbajal, Azumah, Harding-McCallum, Eric Griffin, the next great heavyweight.

Dec. 1993: Riddick Bowe's Year In Preview: Lennox Lewis Is The Least Of His Problems. Plus: Michael Carbajal, Ali-Foreman, Ricardo Lopez, Larry Hazzard.

Feb. 1994: Chavez-Whitaker: Was The Fix In? Plus: Chiquita Gonzalez, overrated/underrated, Corbett-Choynski.

April 1994: Hungry At The Wrong Time: Has Riddick Bowe Become The New Buster Douglas? Plus: Michael Bentt, Buddy McGirt, Jorge Luis Gonzalez, George Dixon, Joe Gans, Joe Walcott.

Aug. 1994: Beating Bredahl Was No Oscar-Winning Peformance: Why De La Hoya Still Has A Lot To Prove. Plus: Christy Martin, Highsmith, overrated/underrated, Triple-Crown Showdown.



April 1992

overrated/underrated, Little-Nunn, Foreman-Holmes preview, Young Jack Thompson.

Oct. 1994: Michael Moorer's Image: Is It All Shadow & Light? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Egerton Marcus, John Michael Johnson, Gorilla Jones, Bowe-Donald preview.

Dec. 1994: Paz Survives Duran: "Pain Is Temporary, Pride Is Forever." Plus: Pernell Whitaker, Julio Cesar Chavez, Tony Green, Patterson-Kelley preview, George Godfrey.

Jan. 1995: Who Are Boxing's Real Warriors? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Marty Jakubowski, super middleweights, Bob Armstrong.

Feb. 1995 (84-Page Special): The Experts Debate: Pernell Whitaker—The Greatest Fighter Of His Era ... Or The Most Overrated? Plus: Greatest fighters who never won title, boxing's bad boys, pro debuts, Bruce Flowers.

April 1995: George Foreman (1974) vs. George Foreman (1995). Plus: Riddick Bowe, cheap-shot artists, catchweight fights, Young Peter Jackson.

June 1995: Foreman, Chavez, De La Hoya, & Jones—Hollywood Boxing Movies You'll Never See. Plus: Rocky Balboa, fighters we want out, Sosa-Williams.

Aug. 1995: Why Mike Tyson Won't Regain The Title. Plus: Alonzo

Oct. 1995 (All-Heavyweight Issue): More Hittable Than Lovable—Can Big George Survive Another Axel Breakdown? Plus: Mike Tyson, Larry Holmes, Bruce Seldon, Joe Louis.

Dec. 1995: Lewis vs. Morrison, Bowe vs. Holyfield: Who Will Survive To Fight Tyson? Plus: James Thunder, Sammy Fuentes, tattoos.

Feb. 1996: Roy Jones vs. Pernell Whitaker: World Boxing Picks The Pound-For-Pound Best. Plus: Frankie Randall, Butterbean, two-sport boxers.

April 1996: The 10 Best Fights Of 1996. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Quartey & Trinidad, fantasy boxing.

June 1996: Hey, Roy Jones, You Say You're Bored? Take These Six Steps To Tyson. Plus: Guys never in a bad fight, Lenzie Morgan, Cleveland Williams.

Fall 1996: "The Hardest Punch I Ever Landed": 10 Heavyweights Recall The Destruction. Plus: Frazier-Ali I fight poster (color), James Toney, heavyweight report card, Wilfredo Vazquez, Rocky.

Winter 1996: Myth vs. Reality. In Search Of The True Tyson (color). Plus: Lonnie Bradley, George Foreman & HBO, Bowe-Golota II preview.

Spring 1997: Is Andrew Golota Too Dangerous For Boxing? Plus: Bowe-Golota II (color), Michael Moorer, top heavyweight fights of '96, fantasy boxing, short fighters.

Summer 1997: Building The Perfect Heavyweight ... One Piece At A Time (color). Plus: Nielsen-Holmes, Heavyweight Explosion, fantasy boxing.

Fall 1997: The Search For The Next Great Heavyweight (color). Plus: Jesse Ferguson, fantasy boxing, Foreman phenomenon.

Winter 1997: If He Never Fights Again ... How Will Mike Tyson Be Remembered? (color). Plus: Roy Jones, Bert Cooper.

Spring 1998: A Look Back At '97 ... A Look Ahead To '98. Plus: Naseem Hamed (color).

Summer 1998: Tomorrow's Superstars: Six Who Will Lead Boxing Into The Next Century (color). Plus: Julio Cesar Chavez, David Tua.

Fall 1998: Piecing Together The Perfect Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya (color), Riddick Bowe.

Winter 1998: Why Trinidad's Gonna Kick Oscar's Golden Butt (color). Plus: Foreman-Holmes, 10 fights that changed history.

Spring 1999: Oscar De La Hoya vs. Ike Quartey: World Boxing Picks The Winner (color). Plus: Mike Tyson debate, 10 greatest welterweight fights of all-time.

Summer 1999: To Hell With The Judges! Lennox Lewis Is The Champ! Plus: De La Hoya-Trinidad preview, the anti-Tyson era, Terronn Millett.

Fall 1999: Danger Ahead! Is Oscar's Macho Madness Dangerous To His Health? Plus: Ali vs. today's top 10, kayo victims, heavyweight report card.

Winter 1999: Why De La Hoya Deserved The Decision Over Trinidad. Plus: Johnny Tapia, Mark Johnson, heavyweight report card, seniors.

Spring 2000: Now We Know Grant's A *Fighter*! (We Just Don't Know How Good A Fighter). Plus: Fernando Vargas, Muhammad Ali, crying game.

Summer 2000: Mosley vs. De La Hoya: Why It's Happening ... Who Will Win! Plus: Paul Spadafora, Oba Carr, suffering survivors.

Fall 2000: 10 Reasons Mike Tyson Can Beat Lennox Lewis. Plus: Arturo Gatti, Felix Trinidad, Mike Griffith.

[All-color beginning with the March 2001 issue]

March 2001: The Ultimate Boxing Ratings. Plus: Tyson-Golota, Marco Antonio Barrera, Joel Cassamayor.

July 2001: Judah vs. Tszyu: Our Forecast Of The Unification Showdown. Plus: Trinidad-Joppy preview, Dynamite Dozen, comebacks.

Nov. 2001: It's Time To Flex Your Muscles, Roy: Fight The Trinidad-Hopkins Winner Next! Plus: Laila-Jacqui, Floyd Mayweather, greatest upsets.

☐ MAY/79	☐ JUN/85	☐ JUL/87	☐ APR/92	☐ FEB/96
☐ MAY/81	☐ JUL/85	☐ AUG/87	☐ JUN/92	☐ APR/96
☐ JUL/81	☐ SEP/85	☐ SEP/87	☐ AUG/92	☐ JUN/96
☐ SEP/81	☐ OCT/85	☐ OCT/87	☐ OCT/92	☐ FAL/96
☐ SEP/82	☐ NOV/85	☐ NOV/87	☐ DEC/92	☐ WIN/96
☐ JAN/83	☐ DEC/85	☐ DEC/87	☐ FEB/93	☐ SPR/97
☐ MAY/83	☐ JAN/86	☐ JUN/89	☐ APR/93	☐ SUM/97
☐ JUL/83	☐ FEB/86	☐ AUG/89	☐ JUN/93	☐ FAL/97
☐ SEP/83	☐ MAR/86	☐ OCT/89	☐ AUG/93	☐ WIN/97
☐ NOV 83	☐ APR/86	☐ DEC/89	☐ DEC/93	☐ SPR/98
☐ DEC/83	☐ JUN/86	☐ FEB/90	☐ FEB/94	☐ SUM/98
☐ JAN/84	☐ JUL/86	☐ APR/90	☐ APR/94	☐ FAL/98
☐ FEB/84	☐ SEP/86	☐ JUN/90	☐ AUG/94	☐ WIN/98
☐ APR/84	☐ OCT/86	☐ OCT/90	☐ OCT/94	☐ SPR/99
☐ SEP/84	☐ NOV/86	☐ DEC/90	☐ DEC/94	☐ SUM/99
☐ NOV/84	☐ DEC/86	☐ FEB/91	☐ JAN/95	☐ FAL/99
☐ DEC/84	☐ JAN/87	☐ APR/91	☐ FEB/95	☐ WIN/99
☐ JAN/85	☐ FEB/87	☐ JUN/91	☐ APR/95	☐ SPR/00
☐ FEB/85	☐ MAR/87	☐ AUG/91	☐ JUN/95	☐ SUM/00
☐ MAR/85	☐ APR/87	☐ OCT/91	☐ AUG/95	☐ FAL/00
☐ APR/85	☐ MAY/87	☐ DEC/91	☐ OCT/95	☐ MAR/01
☐ MAY/85	☐ JUN/87	☐ FEB/92	☐ DEC/95	☐ JUL/01
				☐ NOV/01

In case of a sellout, indicate substitute choice:_____

WORLD BOXING

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 EACH

Please send me the back issues I've checked. I enclose $____ (U.S. FUNDS ONLY) as payment in full. PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____ Apt.____

City_____

State _____ Zip____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent via boat mail, or $3 for every back issue to be sent via airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only.
Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by The Ring are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of September 2001, the WBC as of November 2001, and the IBF as of October 2001.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hasim Rahman (USA)	C	–	C
John Ruiz (USA)	–	C	–
Mike Tyson (USA)	1	6	4
Lennox Lewis (GB)	2	4	3
Vitaly Klitschko (UKR)	3	3	–
Fres Oquendo (USA)	4	–	5
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	5	–	6
Lance Whitaker (USA)	6	5	7
Larry Donald (USA)	7	9	–
Chris Byrd (USA)	8	11	1
Vaughn Bean (USA)	9	12	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	10	–	–
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	–	1	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	2	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	11	7	8
Nicolay Valouev (RUS)	26	8	–
David Izon (NIG)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Monte Barrett (USA)	16	–	9
David Tua (NZ)	13	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Vassiliy Jirov (KAZ)	–	–	C
Louis Azille (DR)	1	4	6
Vincenzo Cantatore (ITA)	2	–	–
Wayne Braithwaite (GUY)	3	11	10
O'Neil Bell (USA)	4	6	3
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	5	2	5
Carlos Cruzat (CHI)	6	–	–
Carl Thompson (GB)	7	7	9
Rudiger May (GER)	8	–	–
Dale Brown (CAN)	9	–	–
Sebastiaan Rothmann (SA)	10	–	–
Jean Mark Mormeck (FRA)	–	1	–
James Toney (USA)	–	3	4
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	22	5	11
Vincenzo Cantatore (ITA)	–	8	–
Andre Purlett (GUY)	–	9	–
Imamu Mayfield (USA)	–	10	8
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Arthur Williams (USA)	11	–	7

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Roy Jones (USA)	C	C	C
Clinton Woods (GB)	1	4	6
Reggie Johnson (USA)	2	5	2
Yawe Davis (ITA)	3	–	–
Antonio Tarver (USA)	4	7	4
Mads Larsen (DEN)	5	8	–
Eric Harding (USA)	6	–	3
Glenn Kelly (AUSTRL)	7	3	1
Julio Gonzalez (USA)	8	10	–
Montell Griffin (USA)	9	12	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	10	–	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	–	1	–
Bruno Girard (FRA)	–	2	9
Robert Koon (USA)	18	6	–
David Telesco (USA)	–	9	7
Glencoffe Johnson (USA)	11	11	5
Will Taylor (USA)	–	–	8
Lou Del Valle (USA)	–	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Eric Lucas (CAN)	C	–	–
Byron Mitchell (USA)	–	C	–
Sven Ottke (GER)	–	–	C
Dingaan Thobela (SA)	1	–	–
Markus Beyer (GER)	2	12	5
David Reid (USA)	3	–	7
David Starie (GB)	4	4	6
Glenn Catley (GB)	5	–	–
Thomas Tate (USA)	6	7	1
Danilo Haussler (GER)	7	10	10
Omar Sheika (USA)	8	3	3
Jerry Elliott (NIG)	9	–	–
Mikkel Kessler (DEN)	10	9	–
Vacant	–	1	2
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	16	2	–
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	–	5	12
Manuel Siacca (PR)	–	6	–
Rudy Markussen (DEN)	12	8	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	14	–	4
James Butler (USA)	–	–	8
Antwun Echols (USA)	11	–	9

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	C	C	C
Erland Betare (FRA)	1	–	5
Felix Trinidad (PR)	2	2	–
Howard Eastman (GB)	3	1	4
Tito Mendoza (PAN)	4	11	3
Cristian Sanavia (ITA)	5	–	9
William Joppy (USA)	6	4	7
Keith Holmes (USA)	7	7	6
Carl Daniels (USA)	8	–	1
Morrade Hakkar (FRA)	9	–	–
Naotaka Hozumi (JAP)	10	–	–
David Reid (USA)	–	3	–
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	–	5	–
Julio Cesar Green (DR)	–	6	–
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	–	8	–
Antonio Perugino (ITA)	14	9	–
Ryan Rhodes (GB)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Raymond Joval (HOL)	15	–	8
Harry Simon (NAM)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–
Fernando Vargas (USA)	–	C	–
Winky Wright (USA)	–	3	C
Roman Karmazin (RUS)	1	5	–
Francisco Castillejo (SPA)	2	–	7
Fitz Vanderpool (CAN)	3	–	–
Travis Simms (USA)	4	11	11
J.C. Candelo (COL)	5	8	6
Quirino Garcia (MEX)	6	–	9
Bronco McKart (USA)	7	–	3
Yory Boy Campas (MEX)	8	–	–
Alex Bunema (USA)	9	–	5
Mamadou Thiam (FRA)	10	2	–
Vacant	–	1	1
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	4	–
Jose Flores (MEX)	–	6	–
Frank Olsen (DEN)	18	7	–
Santiago Samaniego (PAN)	19	9	–
Kevin Kelly (USA)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Nader Hamdan (AUSTRL)	11	–	4
Jason Papillion (USA)	24	–	8
Robert Frazier (USA)	–	–	10

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Shane Mosley (USA)	C	–	–
Andrew Lewis (GUY)	–	C	–
Vernon Forrest (USA)	–	–	C
Jose Luis Cruz (MEX)	1	–	–
Carlos Baldomir (ARG)	2	8	–
Thomas Damgaard (DEN)	3	2	5
Michele Piccirillo (ITA)	4	5	1
Danny Perez (USA)	5	9	6
Hercules Kyvelos (CAN)	6	–	7
Alessandro Duran (ITA)	7	–	–
Julian Holland (AUSTRL)	8	12	8
Manuel Gomez (MEX)	9	–	–
Cory Spinks (USA)	10	–	2
Ricardo Mayorga (CR)	–	1	–
Michael Trabant (GERE)	–	3	–
Chantel Stanciel (USA)	16	4	–
James Page (USA)	–	6	–
Jose Rivera (USA)	25	7	11
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	10	–
Rafael Pineda (COL)	22	–	3
Antonio Diaz (MEX)	17	–	4
Hector Quiroz (MEX)	–	–	9
Oba Carr (USA)	19	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	C	C	–
Zab Judah (USA)	–	–	C
Gianluca Branco (ITA)	1	11	–
Hector Camacho Jr (PR)	2	1	–
Oktay Urkal (TUR)	3	8	7
Eamonn Magee (GB)	4	–	–

Mikhail Krivolapov (RUS)	5	–	–
Gabriel Mapuoka (FRA)	6	–	–
Ben Tackie (GHA)	7	–	3
Terronn Millett (USA)	8	10	6
Ray Oliveira (USA)	9	–	8
James Leija (USA)	10	–	9
Diobelis Hurtado (CUB)	–	2	–
Randall Bailey (USA)	–	3	–
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	11	4	10
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	20	5	–
Ricky Hatton (GB)	14	6	–
Hiroyuki Maeda (JAP)	28	7	–
Demetrio Ceballos (PAN)	–	9	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Teddy Reid (JAM)	22	–	4
Carlos Vilches (ARG)	–	–	5

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jose Luis Castillo (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Julien Lorcy (FRA)	**9**	**C**	**–**
Paul Spadafora (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Steve Johnston (USA)	1	–	8
Juan Lazcano (USA)	2	11	3
Alex Trujillo (PR)	3	9	–
Lovemore Ndou (SA)	4	–	–
Stefano Zoff (ITA)	5	5	11
Julio Diaz (USA)	6	7	5
Lawrence Ngobeni (SA)	7	–	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	8	–	–
Dennis Holbaek (DEN)	10	12	9
Raul Balbi (ARG)	–	1	–
Rick Yoshimura (JAP)	–	2	–
Miguel Callist (PAN)	–	3	–
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	15	4	–
Sandro Casamonica (ITA)	16	6	–
Juan Gomez-Trinidad (PR)	22	8	10
Edson Xuxa Nascimento (BRA)	–	10	7
Angel Manfredy (USA)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Victoriano Damian Sosa (DR)	11	–	4
Efren Hinojosa (USA)	–	–	6

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Floyd Mayweather (USA)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Joel Casamayor (CUB)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Steve Forbes (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Jesus Chavez (USA)	1	7	5
Sirimongkol Singmanassuk (THAI)	2	–	–
Kengo Nagashima (JAP)	3	–	–
Tiger Ari (PHIL)	4	–	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	5	1	–
Randy Suico (PHIL)	6	–	–
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	7	–	10
Philip Ndou (SA)	8	–	8
Affif Djelti (FRA)	9	–	–
Carlos Hernandez (EL SALV)	10	–	–
Yodsanan Nanthachai (THAI)	21	2	–
Lamont Pearson (USA)	16	3	1
Luis Navarro (USA)	–	4	–
Jorge Barrios (ARG)	–	5	–
Jongkwon Baek (KOR)	–	6	–
Jose Miguel Cotto (PR)	–	8	–
Kinji Amano (JAP)	27	9	–
Tontcho Tontchev (BUL)	13	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
David Santos (USA)	26	–	3
Ernesto Zepeda (MEX)	14	–	4
John Brown (USA)	–	–	6
Luis Lizarraga (USA)	–	–	7
Carlos Hernandez (USA)	–	–	9

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Erik Morales (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Derrick Gainer (USA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Frankie Toledo (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Naseem Hamed (GB)	1	2	7
Injin Chi (KOR)	2	12	–
Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)	3	3	5
Johnny Tapia (USA)	4	7	–
Manuel Calvo (SPA)	5	–	–
Robbie Peden (AUSTRL)	6	–	–
Guty Espadas (MEX)	7	–	–
Istvan Kovacs (HUN)	8	10	10
Scott Harrison (GB)	9	–	–
Luis Fuentes (MEX)	10	–	–
Daniel Seda (PR)	20	1	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	4	2
Philip Ndou (SA)	–	5	–
Lewis Woods (US)	–	6	–
Armando Cordoba (PAN)	25	8	–
Angel Vasquez (PR)	–	9	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	–	–	1
Robbie Peden (AUSTRL)	–	–	3
Augie Sanchez (USA)	12	–	4
David Toledo (USA)	–	–	6
Oscar Larios (MEX)	–	–	8
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	9

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Willie Jorrin (USA)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Vacant	**–**	**C**	**1**
Manny Pacquaio (PHIL)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Michael Brodie (GB)	1	–	–
Israel Vazquez (MEX)	2	–	–
Oscar Larios (MEX)	3	–	–
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	4	–	–
Osamu Sato (JAP)	5	7	–
Salim Medjkoune (FRA)	6	4	4
Kiattisak Chocchoi (THAI)	7	–	–
Nadel Hussein (AUSTRL)	8	–	–
Manabu Fukushima (JAP)	9	–	–
Marcos Licona (USA)	10	–	–
Yobert Ortega (VEN)	–	1	–
Jose Rojas (VEN)	–	2	–
Sithyodthong Yoddamrong (THAI)	–	3	–
Veerapol Sor Voraphin (THAI)	–	5	–
Kozo Ishii (JAP)	12	6	–
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	–	8	8
Israel Vasquez (MEX)	–	9	–
Johnny Armour (GB)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
F. Rakkiatgym (INDO)	–	–	3
Lehlo Ledwaba (SA)	11	–	5
Fahsung 3K-Battery (THAI)	–	–	6
Jose Luis Valbuena (ARG)	–	–	7
Fernando Velardez (USA)	–	–	9
Bones Adams (USA)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Veerapol Sahaprom (THAI)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Vacant	**–**	**C**	**1**
Tim Austin (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Toshiaki Nishioka (JAP)	1	–	–
Genaro Garcia (USA)	2	10	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	3	4	6
Rafael Marquez (MEX)	4	8	4
Diego Morales (MEX)	5	–	–
Jess Maca (PHIL)	6	–	–
Noel Wilders (GB)	7	–	–
Akihiro Kanai (JAP)	8	–	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	9	6	9
Cruz Carbajal (MEX)	10	–	–
Eidy Moya (VEN)	–	1	–
Adan Vargas (MEX)	–	2	7
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	3	–
Toshiaki Nishioka (JAP)	–	5	–
Sahoiu Sithchai Condo (THAI)	–	7	–
Diego Morales (MEX)	–	9	10
Vacant	–	–	2
Pete Frissina (USA)	–	12	3
Ratanachai Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	5
Juan Cordoba (ARG)	–	–	8

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Masanori Tokuyama (JAP)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Setsuo Kobayashi (JAP)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Felix Machado (VEN)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Dimitri Kirilov (RUS)	1	12	–
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	2	–	–
Martin Castillo (MEX)	3	–	3
Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)	4	–	–
Kazuhiro Ryuko (JAP)	5	–	–
Malcolm Tunacao (PHIL)	6	–	–
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	7	–	–
Luis Bolanos (COL)	8	11	7
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	9	2	5
Shingo Sasaki (JAP)	10	–	–
Alexander Munoz (VEN)	–	1	–
Mbwana Matumla (TNZ)	–	3	–
Sornpichai Pisnurachank (THAI)	–	4	–
Hideki Todaka (JAP)	–	5	–
Kazuhiro Ryuko (JAP)	–	6	–
Adonis Rivas (NIC)	–	7	6
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	8	8
Katsushigo Kawashima (JAP)	12	9	–
Samson 3K-Battery (THAI)	–	10	12
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Vernie Torres (USA)	14	–	4
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	18	–	9
Juan Marquez (MEX)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pongsaklek Wonjongkam (THAI)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Eric Morel (USA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Irene Pacheco (COL)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Mike Trejo (USA)	1	4	3
Alexander Mahmutov (RUS)	2	6	8
Hidenobu Honda (JAP)	3	–	–
Hiroshi Nakano (JAP)	4	12	–
Wandee Chor Chareon (THAI)	5	–	–
Alex Ali Baba (GHA)	6	–	6
Randy Mangubat (PHIL)	7	–	–
Hussein Hussein (AUSTRL)	8	–	–
Masaki Nakamuna (JAP)	9	8	–
Damaen Kelly (GB)	10	10	10
Denkaosaen Kaowitch (THAI)	–	1	–
Mzukisi Sikali (SA)	20	2	–
Isidro Garcia (MEX)	–	3	–
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	13	5	7
Jose Lopez (VEN)	–	7	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	9	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Hawk Makepula (SA)	11	–	4
Hussein Hussein (LEB)	–	–	5
David Guerault (FRA)	16	–	9

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yosam Choi (KOR)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	1	6	4
Juanito Rubillar (PHIL)	2	–	–
Jesus Martinez (MEX)	3	–	–
Agustin Luna (MEX)	4	–	–
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	5	11	8
Eric Ortiz (MEX)	6	8	–
Pilkoo Kang (KOR)	7	–	–
Vuyisile Bebe (SA)	8	–	–
Surachai Saengmorokot (THAI)	9	–	–
Keisuke Yokoyama (JAP)	10	–	–
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	1	–
Hidenobu Honda (JAP)	–	2	10
Yura Dimas (MON)	–	3	–
Bebis Mendoza (COL)	–	4	9
Jorge Arce (MEX)	–	5	–
Deeden Kengkarun (THAI)	–	7	–
Wolf Tokimitsu (JAP)	–	9	–
Masibulele Makepula (SA)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Noel Tunacao (PHIL)	–	–	3
Wandee Chareon (THAI)	–	–	5
Juan Keb Baas (MEX)	29	–	6
Zolani Petelo (SA)	–	–	7

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jose Antonio Aguirre (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Yutaka Niida (JAP)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Roberto Leyva (MEX)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Yasuo Tokimitsu (JAP)	1	–	9
Khulile Makeba (SA)	2	12	–
Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)	3	–	7
Isaac Bustos (MEX)	4	–	–
Hiroshi Nakajima (JAP)	5	–	–
Noel Tunacao (PHIL)	6	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	7	5	4
Hiroshi Matsumoto (JAP)	8	7	5
Noel Arambulet (VEN)	9	1	12
Heriberto Gijon (PHIL)	10	–	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	2	–
Keitaro Hoshino (JAP)	–	3	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	11	4	–
Kim Ki Hwan (KOR)	–	6	–
Hiroshi Nakajima (JAP)	–	8	6
Daniel Reyes (COL)	–	9	3
Keisuke Yokoyama (JAP)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Miguel Barrera (MEX)	30	–	2
Mohamed Rachman (INDO)	27	–	8
Surachai Saengmorokot (THAI)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

From THE RING, July 1983

JEFF CHANDLER: BOXING'S BIGGEST LITTLE MAN

Can "Joltin' Jeff" Move Up In Class?

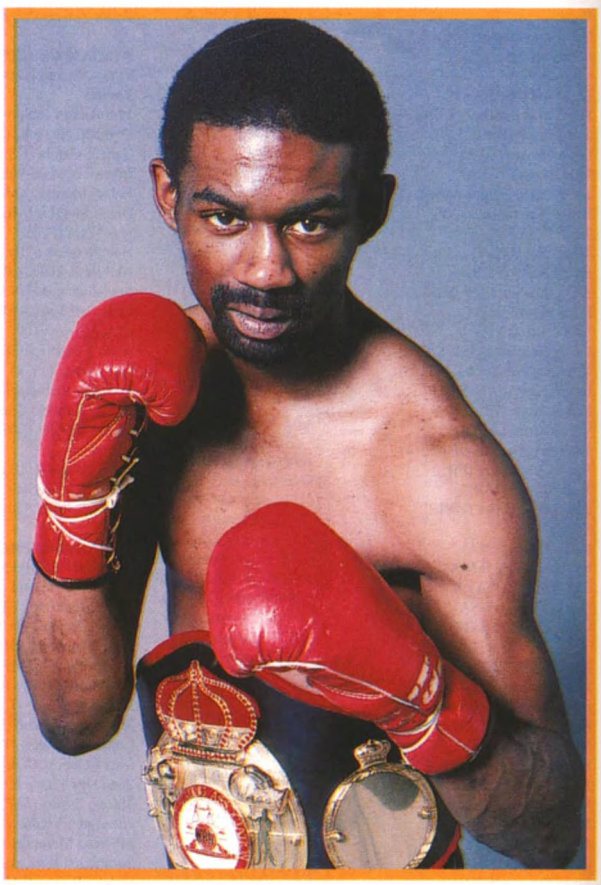
By Nigel Collins

Deep in the heart of South Philadelphia the spring sunlight filtered through the gym's skylight and shone softly on the slender, whippet-like figure of Jeff Chandler. A nearby radio broke the afternoon silence with a funky beat that accentuated the natural rhythm of his jump rope. As the rope whisked effortlessly across the worn wooden floor and up over his head, the man considered by many to be the finest bantamweight on the planet gazed introspectively into a full-length mirror, inspecting every sinewy inch of his body. Perhaps he was looking for a way to add a pound here and a pound there without sacrificing any of the speed and mobility that are so vital to his game. For Chandler has run out of both challenges and challengers at the bantamweight limit and has decided, like so many others before him, to move up in weight in pursuit of greater glory.

Chandler's move is a search for more meaningful fights, not the traditional transition necessitated by unwanted bulk. Although there have been some difficulties making the weight in his last two defenses, even Chandler will admit that he can still make the bantamweight limit without the benefit of surgery. In fact, Jeff would be delighted if he woke up one morning and found himself a full-fledged featherweight.

"I think of myself as a future Hall of Famer, but I don't think just holding the bantamweight title is going to get me there," said Chandler. "This is the reason I'm looking for bigger fights and bigger titles in heavier weight classes. I also want to check out the 122-pound division because when I fought [Miguel] Iriarte after a seven-month layoff, I had trouble making the weight. Then when I fought [Gaby] Ganizales, I had trouble again. I figure I'm just getting heavier. My body is starting to change. My metabolism is starting to change. My master plan is to win titles in three divisions. I could fight nobodies and hold the bantamweight title forever. But what would that prove?"

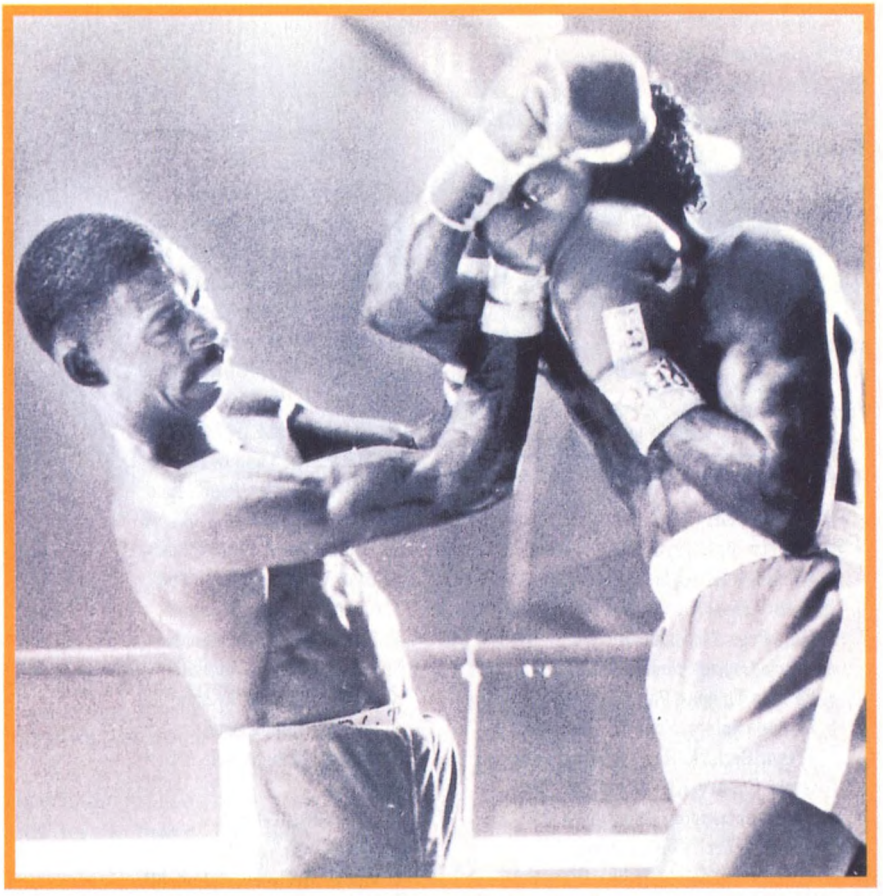
When he won the WBA title with an upset knockout over Julian Solis on November 14, 1980, there were great expectations that Chandler would rekindle the American sporting



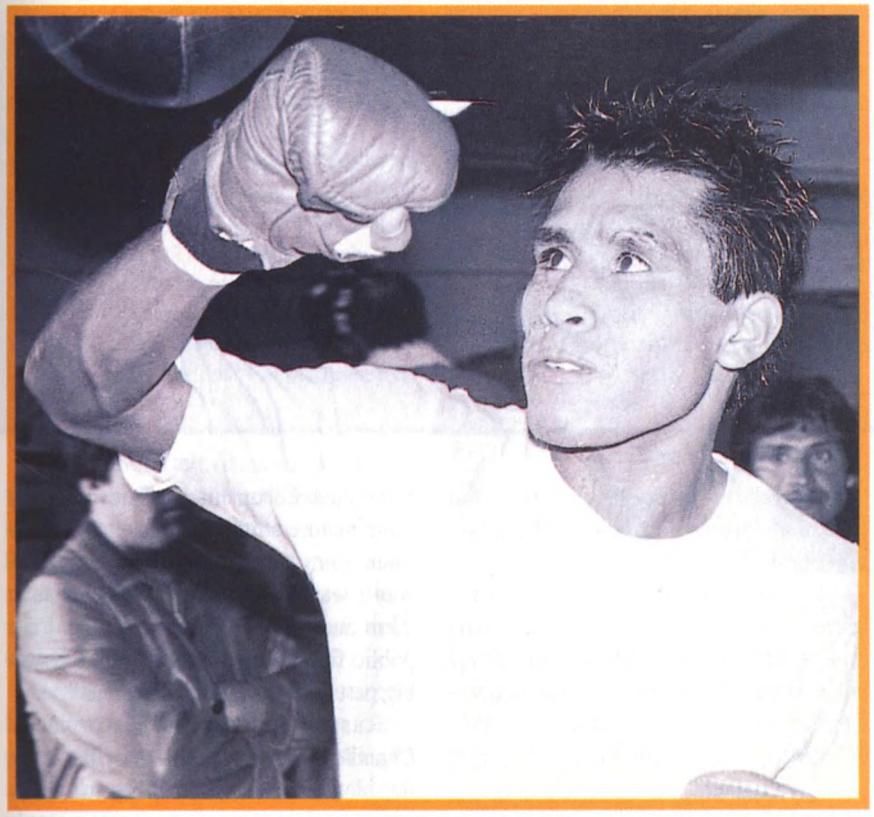
Winning and defending the WBA bantamweight title has not brought Chandler the fame and fortune he desires, so he's hoping he can move up to the junior featherweight class without sacrificing any of the speed and mobility that were so vital to his game.

public's interest in the 118-pound class. He was, after all, the first American-born champ since Harold Dade borrowed the belt from Manuel Ortiz for a few months back in 1947. "Joltin' Jeff," it was hoped, would lead the division out of the doldrums and into the spotlight. It never happened. Although Jeff has breezed, with growing artistry, through a succession of seven successful defenses, he has yet to capture the imagination of the networks—hence the viewing populace. Only four of his defenses have been shown on network television, with the others relegated to minor cable outlets. A unification match with WBC counterpart Lupe Pintor certainly would have sparked some interest, but for sundry reasons it never materialized. To the casual fan, Chandler remains, for all his achievements, just another one of those "little guys." Unknown.

"It's because the American public is characteristically obtuse about the lighter weights and they just don't want to see them," said NBC's Dr. Ferdie Pacheco. "We've had Chandler on and we've had good ratings every time. If it was up to me, I'd have him on four times a year. I think he's great. But as you know, we have not been a network that has been suffused with cash. Only recently have we had the money to go after big names. We couldn't put Chandler on four times without destroying our budget. He's also not a charismatic character. He's not Ray 'Boom Boom' Mancini. He's not Hector Camacho. But he is a fine fighter for people who enjoy boxing."



When Chandler upset Julian Solis to win the WBA title, there were great expectations that "Joltin' Jeff" would rekindle the American sporting public's interest in the 118-pound division. It never happened.



If Chandler would have met WBC counterpart Lupe Pintor (pictured) in a unification bout, it would have sparked some interest in the bantamweight class. For assorted reasons, that bout never occurred.

In the age of television, it takes considerably more than athletic accomplishment to become a star. The way a fighter talks about "mom and country" during the postfight interview is equally as important as the way he hooks off the jab. One way or another, his entire life is on display and there have been times when Chandler's comportment outside the ring has been less than exemplary. First there was a drug bust in 1981 when police found cocaine and marijuana in his car. Then a streetfight last year left the champ with an ugly scar between his shoulder blades—compliments of a broken bottle. Naturally, the kind of ink Jeff has received from the local print media hasn't always been flattering.

THE RING RATINGS, July 1983

Tommy Hearns

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Larry Holmes, Easton, PA
1. **Michael Dokes**, Akron, OH
2. **Mike Weaver**, Los Angeles, CA
3. **Greg Page**, Louisville, KY
4. **Gerrie Coetzee**, South Africa
5. **Pinklon Thomas**, Philadelphia, PA
6. **Renaldo Snipes**, Yonkers, NY
7. **Trevor Berbick**, Halifax, Nova Scotia
8. **Gerry Cooney**, Huntington, NY
9. **Tim Witherspoon**, Philadelphia, PA
10. **Randall "Tex" Cobb**, Abilene, TX

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Michael Spinks, St. Louis, MO
1. **Dwight Braxton**, Camden, NJ
2. **Eddie Mustafa Muhammad**, Brooklyn, NY
3. **Eddie Davis**, Freeport, NY
4. **Carlos DeLeon**, Puerto Rico
5. **John Davis**, Hempstead, NY
6. **Marvin Johnson**, Indianapolis, IN
7. **Oscar Rivadeneyra**, Vineland, NJ
8. **John Odhiambo**, Denmark
9. **Jose M. Flores**, Uruguay
10. **Pete McIntyre**, Los Angeles, CA

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Marvin Hagler, Brockton, MA
1. **Wilford Scypion**, Port Arthur, TX
2. **Frank Fletcher**, Philadelphia, PA
3. **Tony Sibson**, England
4. **Mustafa Hamsho**, Syria
5. **Thomas Hearns**, Detroit, MI
6. **Dwight Davison**, Detroit, MI
7. **James Shuler**, Philadelphia, PA
8. **Fulgencio Obelmejias**, Venezuela
9. **James Green**, Irvington, NJ
10. **Curtis Parker**, Philadelphia, PA

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Thomas Hearns, Detroit, MI
1. **Wilfred Benitez**, Puerto Rico
2. **Davey Moore**, New York, NY
3. **Tony Ayala Jr.**, San Antonio, TX
4. **Mike McCallum**, New York, NY
5. **Carlos Herrera**, Argentina
6. **James Green**, Irvington, NJ
7. **Roberto Duran**, Panama
8. **Fred Hutchings**, Stockton, CA
9. **John Mugabi**, Uganda
10. **Gary Guiden**, Muncie, IN

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Vacant
1. **Milton McCrory**, Detroit, MI
2. **Donald Curry**, Fort Worth, TX
3. **Marlon Starling**, Hartford, CT
4. **Roger Stafford**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Nino LaRocca**, Italy
6. **Colin Jones**, Wales
7. **Elio Diaz**, Venezuela
8. **Kevin Howard**, Philadelphia, PA
9. **Mauricio Bravo**, Venezuela
10. **Pete Ranzany**, Sacramento, CA

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Aaron Pryor, Cincinnati, OH
1. **Alexis Arguello**, Nicaragua
2. **Johnny Bumphus**, Clementon, NJ
3. **Bruce Curry**, Fort Worth, TX
4. **Leroy Haley**, Las Vegas, NV
5. **Saoul Mamby**, New York, NY
6. **Steve Hearon**, Houston, TX
7. **Ubaldo Sacco**, Argentina
8. **Billy Costello**, Kingston, NY
9. **Ronnie Shields**, Port Arthor, TX
10. **Patrizio Oliva**, Italy

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Vacant
1. **Ray Mancini**, Youngstown, OH
2. **Edwin Rosario**, Puerto Rico
3. **Howard Davis Jr.**, Glen Cove, NY
4. **Andy Ganigan**, Honolulu, HI
5. **Greg Coverson**, Kalamazoo, MI
6. **Roberto Elizondo**, Corpus Christi, TX
7. **Livingstone Bramble**, Passaic, NJ
8. **Jose Luis Ramirez**, Mexico
9. **Ken Bogner**, Trenton, NJ
10. **Orlando Romero**, Peru

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Roger Mayweather, Las Vegas, NV
1. **Bobby Chacon**, Oroville, CA
2. **Hector Camacho**, New York, NY
3. **Cornelius Boza-Edwards**, England
4. **Samuel Serrano**, Puerto Rico
5. **Rafael "Bazooka" Limon**, Mexico
6. **Johnny De La Rosa**, Miami, FL
7. **Rolando Navarrete**, Panama
8. **Jorge Alvarado**, Panama
9. **Chung Il-Choi**, Korea
10. **Rafael Solis**, Puerto Rico

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Eusebio Pedroza, Panama
1. **Juan LaPorte**, New York, NY
2. **Wilfredo Gomez**, Puerto Rico
3. **Rocky Lockridge**, Paterson, NJ
4. **Jose Caba**, Dominican Republic
5. **Azumah Nelson**, Ghana
6. **Ruben Castillo**, Bakersfield, CA

"I try not to pay too much attention to what they say about me, but I'm very sensitive," said Chandler, leaning forward in his chair for emphasis, his dark brown eyes probing those of his inquisitor. "It's been since October of 1975 since I started my boxing career. I've been looking up all the time. I've been moving up and working hard to get there. For the past eight years I've been trying to be the greatest and it makes you feel kind of bad when you hear all this negative stuff."

Pacheco pooh-poohs the idea that Chandler's brushes with the law have hurt his appeal.

"Paradoxically, boxing is one of the sports least connected with drugs. If you look at the NFL or the NBA and all the other junkie-filled professions and compare them to boxing, you gotta have some kind of balls to think that any kind of drug bust can hurt a fighter," maintained Pacheco.

Despite persistent street talk and gym rumors to the contrary, Chandler claims to have cleaned up his act and adopted a more mature attitude. "I just couldn't continue going through life doing things the way I wanted just because I wanted to do them and thought they were right. I'm a public figure now, and the public plays a big part in my lifestyle and career."

Russell Peltz, who has promoted Chandler since his preliminary days, lays the blame for Jeff's inability to achieve mass appeal directly on television's doorstep.

Mario **Miranda**, Colombia
Marcos **Villasana**, Mexico
Jackie **Beard**, Detroit, MI
Bernard **Taylor**, Knoxville, TN

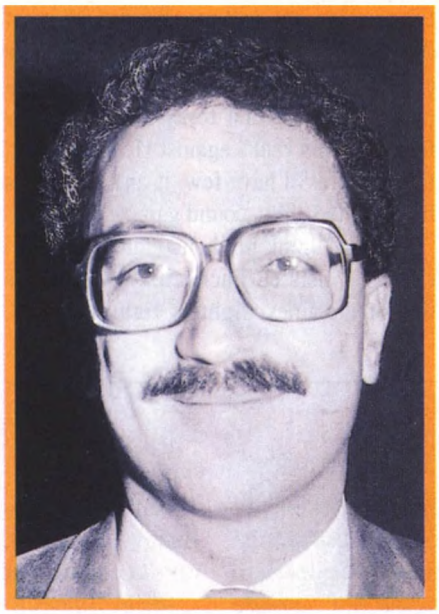
NIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
rld Champ: **Wilfredo Gomez**, Puerto Rico
Leo **Cruz**, Dominican Republic
Jaime **Garza**, Los Angeles, CA
Sergio **Palma**, Argentina
Mike **Ayala**, New York, NY
Lupe **Pintor**, Mexico
Felipe **Orozco**, Colombia
Bobby **Berna**, Philippines
Soon-Hyun **Chung**, Korea
Juan "**Kid**" **Meza**, Los Angeles, CA
Felix **Rodriguez**, Panama

NTAMWEIGHTS
rld Champ: **Jeff Chandler**, Philadelphia, PA
Lupe **Pintor**, Mexico
Albert **Davila**, Los Angeles, CA
Oscar **Muniz**, Los Angeles, CA
Jiro **Watanabe**, Japan
Rafael **Orono**, Venezuela
Edgar **Roman**, Venezuela
Gaby **Canizales**, Laredo, TX
Chul-Ho **Kim**, Korea
Harold **Petty**, Ft. Worth, TX
Freddie **Jackson**, Houston, TX

TWEIGHTS
rld Champ: **Charlie Magri**, England
Santos **Laciar**, Argentina
Freddie **Castillo**, Mexico
Eleoncio **Mercedes**, Dominican Republic
Jung-Koo **Chang**, Korea
Katsuo **Tokashiki**, Japan
Hilario **Zapata**, Panama
Prudencio **Cardona**, Colombia
Gabriel **Bernal**, Mexico
German **Torres**, Mexico
Frank **Cedeno**, Philippines

"I don't think television knows talent when they see it," lamented Peltz. "ABC was all set to buy a Chandler-[Sergio] Palma fight, which to me is a very solid over-the-weight-match, and instead they opted for Trevor Berbick and S.T. Gordon. I think it was an insult."

Chandler's purses, however, have been far from insulting, especially when compared with those of past bantamweight champions. He pulled down a division-record $200,000 for Ganizales. A tidy sum to be sure, but mere chump change compared to the million-dollar gates Jeff envisions for the future. For some time now, he has dreamed of a bout with Wilfredo Gomez for the latter's super bantamweight title. A match of such magnitude could very well catapult the Philadelphian out of the limited weekend-afternoon slot and into the megabuck world of prime time and pay-television. Alas, Gomez deserted the division before Chandler could step up, leaving that particular pairing simmering on the back burner for a later date.



J Russell Peltz, who had promoted Chandler since his preliminary days, blamed Chandler's lack of widespread appeal on TV executives. "I don't think television knows talent when they see it," lamented Peltz.

There is, of course, no thought of relinquishing the bantamweight belt until Jeff has its replacement securely cinched around his waist. While on the one hand, Chandler feels that the 122-pound division is ripe for plucking, the 118-pound crown is still his bread-and-butter, and future defenses are being scheduled accordingly. This latest development in Chandler's career is a testing of the junior feather waters, not a full-scale plunge. Nevertheless, he would jump at the chance to meet WBA junior featherweight champion Leo Cruz. And despite funding problems, this is probably the direction he is headed.

"In Jeff's current position, he can barely get a bantamweight title fight on TV," said Peltz. "If he wins another title, even if it doesn't lead to super recognition, he'll have a lot easier time getting network exposure as a double champ."

While there is general agreement that Chandler could probably dominate the talent-thin junior feathers in much the same manner he has the bantams, the featherweight division is another proposition all together. It is at 126 pounds that the real intrigue—and money—lies. How would Chandler fair against Eusebio Pedroza or Juan LaPorte? Wouldn't they be simply too strong for him?

"You think of Joltin' Jeff Chandler at 118 pounds," countered Jeff. "Think of Joltin' Jeff Chandler at 126. Then it would

Though Chandler did not receive the kind of attention he deserved, he certainly drew some good money figures. The rangy bantamweight champ pulled down $200,000 for his win over Gaby Canizales, a division-record sum at that time.

look a little more in my favor. But we're only just starting to look at the junior featherweights. I don't want to start looking at the featherweights now. That's as time goes on. Not now."

Only five men have won both the bantamweight and featherweight titles: George Dixon, Terry McGovern, Harry Jeffra, Eder Jofre, and Ruben Olivares. All except Jofre are in the Hall of Fame, and Eder could very well have been the best of the lot. Does Chandler belong in their company? Pacheco, whose network carried Chandler's first foray into the junior featherweight ranks against Hector Cortez, thinks Jeff will have few, if any, problems bridging the eight-pound gap.

"I don't think he'll encounter any difficulties," insisted Pacheco. "I think he's one of the finest fighters fighting today. He has such technical mastery. He has always hovered at a weight where he can go up to featherweight without any trouble. I think he'll be sensational as a featherweight. He has all the facility a boxer needs. He's fast and he punches well. He's got speed, talent, desire, and confidence. That's all you need in a champion."

With all due respect to the good doctor, it might not be quite as easy as all that.

A BIASED VIEW OF CHANDLER

Jeff Chandler's place in bantamweight history? Well, we could get Mr. Peabody to have his pet boy Sherman set the way-back machine to 1887, when Tommy "The Harlem Spider" Kelly laid claim to the then-105 pound title, and see for ourselves. But let's be more realistic. Let's say we ease up on the dial and only go back some 27 world champs until we get to the last U.S.-born bantamweight ruler, Manuel Ortiz. Now we're talking only about some 40-odd years of history.

Next, let's put the question of Chandler's relative greatness to some who know a thing or two about the history of the Sweet Science.

West Coast promoter Don Fraser comments: "[Manuel] Ortiz was the greatest, the best. [Ruben] Olivares would certainly be right behind. Eder Jofre and Carlos Zarate also. Chandler's in the top 10, maybe four or five. He seems to possess a nice strong chin and doesn't waste too many punches. Nobody would have blown him away."

Teddy Brenner, matchmaker for Top Rank says, "I count Chandler among the five best [pound-for-pound] today. He out-sizes the others. Carlos Zarate would be a tough one to beat. I'm impressed, Chandler is one of the few out there who knows how to fight."

Promoter/matchmaker Don Elbaum feels that as many as 10 bantams in the past 40 years could have defeated Chandler.

Would Chandler have been able to beat Zarate?

"People forget how exceptional guys like Robert Cohen, Jimmy Carruthers, Raton Macias, and even Enrique Pinder were at one time. Manuel Ortiz was a great, great fighter."

Fight film collector numero uno Jimmy Jacobs contends that, "as far as he's gone, Chandler is absolutely magnificent—wonderful. I do not believe [champs from the past] would have beaten him. However, I do feel it is all hypothetical, silliness to a degree, to try and compare."

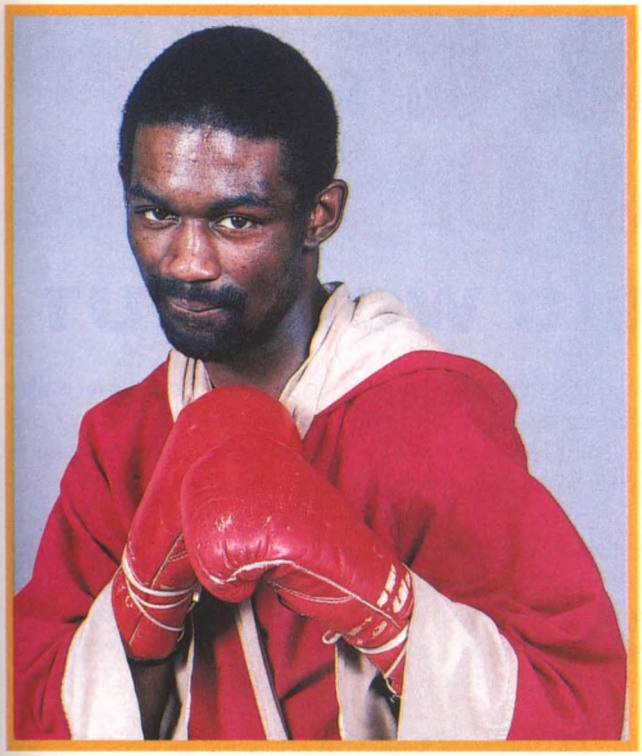
Some experts rate Ortiz the best bantam of all-time

Where does he rate in my book? Well, just whipping today's top-rated foes doesn't mean all that much. Who were these guys anyway? Gaby Ganizales was supposed to be a real challenge, but would the Texan have gone the limit with Zarate? Would he have mauled a Lionel Rose? Styles make fights, right? Therefore, would the shorter master boxer/puncher Eder Jofre have been able to deal with the rangy Philadelphian?

Dare to be great the saying goes, and although Joltin' Jeff has fought well within himself, he's failed to take the dare. Greatness is skill plus daring, that something extra that says, go on, take a chance, don't play it safe, roll those dice. Still, as Chandler's record stands at 118 pounds, I would put him number seven in a 40-year top 10, behind Jofre, Ortiz, Becerra, Harada, Olivares, and Zarate.

Chandler's legacy will probably read: Just think, he could have been even better. But now that he is moving up, that might change.

—Jack Obermayer



Despite being just 26, Chandler was growing more and more restless with the bantamweight class. "I've been thinking and I've been saying that I could be a lot better than I am," Chandler said. "This move up makes me excited. I'm starting my career all over again."

Not among the featherweight hierarchy, anyway. Chandler is 26, and it's unlikely that he'll outgrow the 122-pounders in the foreseeable future. That's not to say he couldn't be highly competitive against the best the featherweights have to offer. It is entirely conceivable that Jeff could give away three or four pounds and still hold his own. Six-time world champion Emile Griffith successfully negotiated the span between welterweight and middleweight, often beating men bigger than himself. In cases such as theirs, it is often smarter to find a comfortable "fighting weight" rather than add artificial poundage.

"I figure that he has to get used to fighting bigger guys," ventured Griffith. "Maybe five or six fights, then he can adjust to the weight and everything else. If he goes in there looking for a knockout every time when he moves up to the big guys, he isn't going to get it. It takes time. Knockouts come by themselves. He should do the same things he did as a bantamweight when he moves up to featherweight."

Indeed, Chandler's domination of the bantamweights has been so complete that he sometimes appears a tad lackadaisical in his work. This is partially because he is so adept at his craft that he makes it look easy, but there is also an element of boredom involved. Against the likes of Cruz, Pedroza, LaPorte, and Gomez, he couldn't afford to be bored and would be forced to fight up to his full potential. Whatever fortunes await him, Jeff will certainly stir the stew.

"My motto used to be that I would hold the bantamweight title forever, until I was 99," smiled Chandler. "But I'm bored and restless. I've been thinking and I've been saying that I could be a lot better than I am. This move up makes me excited. I'm starting my career all over again." ■

THE RING, July 1983

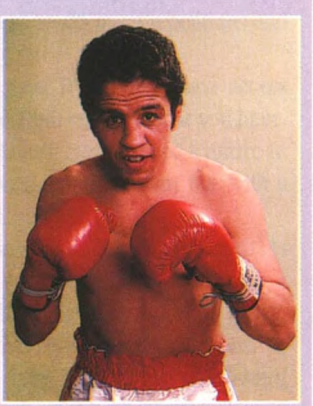
The Cover: Jeff Chandler graced the cover of THE RING for the first time in what eventually turned into a Hall of Fame career. "Joltin' Jeff" was at an interesting crossroads, deciding whether or not to move up to 122 with the intention of garnering larger paydays.

Dempsey Remembered: Former heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey was remembered by THE RING. The tribute spanned from "The Manassa Mauler's" early beginnings, to his heavyweight title defenses (such as the one against Tommy Gibbons shown here), to his contributions to boxing after his retirement.

The Lost Book Of Jose?: THE RING thought it would have some fun with WBC President Jose Sulaiman and made up a mock story unveiling the contents of one of the greatest finds in literary history: Sulaiman's diary. The ledger revealed Sulaiman's humorous entries during a brief stay in the United States.

Controversial Conclusion: Most ringside observers felt Mike Weaver wrested the WBA heavyweight title back from Michael Dokes over the course of 15 rounds, but the three judges saw it differently, awarding Dokes a highly disputed draw despite the defending champion's inactivity in the late rounds.

Fighter Of The Month: Bobby Chacon overcame a shaky start, recovering from three deep cuts and one knockdown, to win a unanimous 12-round decision over Cornelius Boza-Edwards. The WBC junior lightweight champ was bleeding so badly, the dripping blood turned Chacon's trunks from white to pink. Even so, Chacon managed to score three knockdowns en route to the victory.



THE A, B, C & DEAS OF BOXING

THE BASIC WORKOUT

By Tommy Deas

You've watched the world's best fighters and read about them in this magazine, and now you want to give boxing a try, or at least learn a little more about the mechanics of the sport. Welcome to THE RING'S bi-monthly instructional feature on boxing's basics. Bear in mind, the techniques described here are just one of many approaches to the Sweet Science. The most important thing is to find a good coach and follow his instructions. All instructions on these pages are geared for an orthodox, or right-handed, stance. If you are left-handed, merely turn everything around.

The best fighter does not always win, but the best-prepared fighter usually does. The gym is where you work out the kinks in your fighting technique, condition your body, and add to your skills. Future installments will address how to get more out of the drills, exercises, and implements in the boxing gym. This article will concentrate on the basic workout for a beginner to get you ready for more advanced practice sessions.

Your first stop won't actually be at the local gym. Start with roadwork. Running will help condition your legs and lungs for the rigors of the boxing workout, and enable you to get more out of the time you spend at the gym. Any veteran trainer will tell you fighters don't get in shape in the gym, but on the road.

Depending on your physical condition, start out by jogging a mile or two a day at a slow pace, five days a week, and pick it up from there. Increase your pace as you feel things getting easier, and work your way up to about three miles a day.

Once you've got your running up to par, your body should be ready for the gym. Stretching is an important part of the warm-up. Exercise physiologists have discovered that it is best to start with some light exercise to get the blood pumping before you stretch. Stretching cold can actually cause muscle pulls and strains, so work up a little sweat before stretching out head to toe. Concentrate on every muscle group, especially those involved in punching and boxing footwork. About 15 minutes of stretching is a good rule of thumb before the workout.

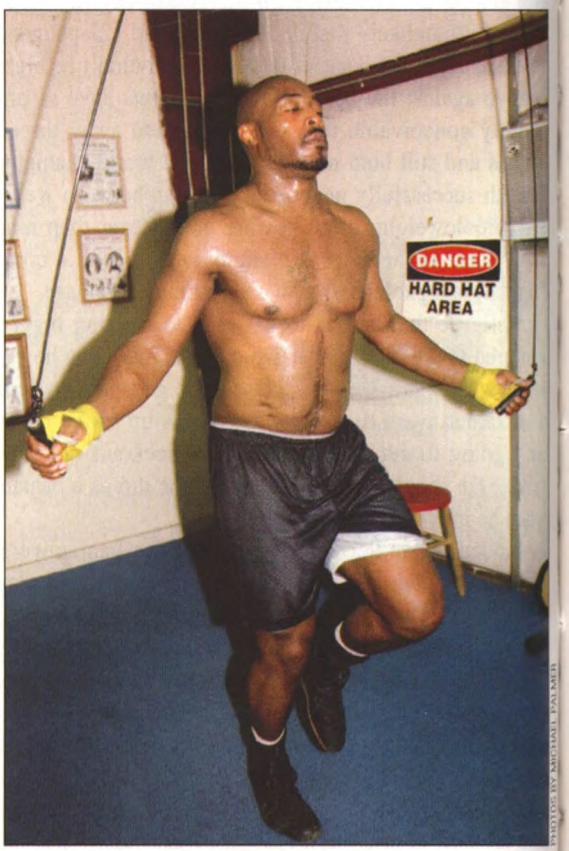
It's a good idea to wear your mouthpiece when you work out. Beginners often find they have a problem keeping the mouthpiece in, and it's better to work this out before you have someone throwing punches at you.

Different trainers have different approaches to the order of the workout, and, as always, defer to your coach if you are working out somewhere with a boxing instructor.

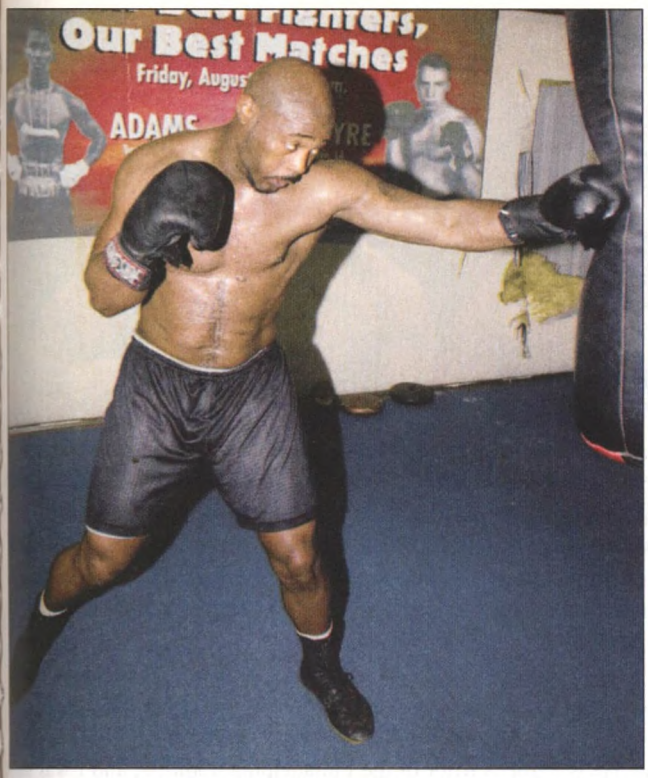
The boxing workout, in general, should be broken down into three-minute segments with one-minute rest periods, just like a fight. As a beginner, probably two rounds of each activity is good for a start, adding rounds as you get into better shape.

Jumping rope is a good starting activity because it gets your heart rate up and keeps it there for awhile. If you aren't experienced with the jump rope, it may take some time to get the hang of it. At first, you may spend more time with the rope tangled around your feet than you do jumping it. Be patient, but at the same time, learn to keep jumping as you untangle the rope. Don't cheat your workout with constants starts and stops.

The important thing to remember



Heavyweight Wade "Rock" Lewis warms up by jumping rope. While beginners may want to start by jumping with their feet together, as they improve, they should try jogging with the rope, as Lewis demonstrates.



Lewis bangs the heavybag with a left jab. It's important when working the heavybag to use good footwork and remain defensively responsible, even though there aren't any punches coming back at you.

Intently focused, Lewis builds a rhythm with the speedbag. Notice how his fists arc in a downward motion as he strikes the bag.

with your workout is that you're there to get in shape, as well as to become a better boxer. Do not set a comfortable pace. Set an uncomfortable pace. The jump rope will supplement your running as a conditioning tool, but also give you better control and coordination of your feet, which can come in handy in the ring.

Start jumping with both feet together, then work your way up to something that resembles jogging, one foot after another. As you get better, start to lift your knees waist high, or pick up your tempo with "sprints" for 10 to 15 seconds every minute.

After you jump rope, let your heart rate slow while you put on your hand wraps. That way you are doing something productive while you rest up for the next step.

Shadowboxing is an important part of every boxer's workout. Find a mirror and start working on your basic punches and watch yourself as you would an opponent. Look for the weaknesses your opponent will see: Are your hands up? Is your chin down?

Learning to work for three minutes is part of the challenge, but learning to concentrate for three full minutes without a break is equally important. One lapse is all it takes to spell defeat, so be vigilant in looking for your own flaws. Also, bring your footwork into play as you shadowbox. The more your shadowboxing resembles combat conditions, the better.

To break up the monotony, you can shadowbox with a partner, practicing your moves and counter moves at a safe distance. This will allow you to improve your timing and train your mind for the reactions you will have to make in the ring.

After shadowboxing, move over to the heavybag. Again, try to be realistic when hitting the bag. Respect it as you would an opponent that can hit you back, and take you out. Carelessness is not something that will be rewarded in the ring, so treat your bag work just like you would a fight. Use your footwork, moving in and out of range and side-to-side to attack from different angles. Practice different combinations, and mix up your assault to work alternately on speed and power. Pay as much attention to getting your hands back to a defensive position as you do to punching. And, as always, push yourself to get more out of your workout. The heavybag builds up the muscles that you use to punch, giving you more power and arm stamina.

Next, try out the speedbag. Like the jump rope, this will take some time to master. Just strike the bag with one hand after the other, arcing in a downward motion to strike the bag as it bounces back off the upper mount. At first it may bounce a few times before you strike it again, but you will begin to get the timing and add a more complex pattern to your speedbag work. While striking, you can get more out of your speedbag work by lifting one foot after another slightly off the floor, and with time you can learn to bounce up and down and around the bag as you work. This one will take a lot of patience, but the speedbag enhances your hand-to-eye coordination and builds the arm and shoulder muscles that allow you to punch harder and longer in the ring.

Finally, don't forget your exercises. Start with pushups and situps, adding more and more to each set as you get stronger. You should do as many as fatigue will allow, and fight your body to get in at least one or two more. Over time, as it gets easier, do more repetitions and more sets to keep challenging your body.

That's a good workout to get you started. If you don't have access to a gym with all the necessary boxing equipment, use what you have. All it takes to run is a pair of shoes, and most everyone has a mirror to shadowbox. Go to a local sporting goods store and start out with a heavybag and add more to your collection as you go.

If that is beyond your reach, be creative. Tie an old mattress around a tree or fill a duffel bag with socks or rags. Do whatever it takes to feed your passion for boxing. If you really want to do it, you will find a way to get by until you can find better accommodations. ■

Tommy Deas is a sportswriter for the Tuscaloosa [Alabama] News and a trainer of professional and amateur boxers.

COME OUT WRITING

Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Or e-mail letters to comeoutwriting@yahoo.com. E-mailed letters will include the writer's e-mail address unless a city and state of origin is provided.

HOW EXCELLENT IS "THE EXECUTIONER"?

Bernard Hopkins' triumph over Felix Trinidad was an absolute masterpiece, and in my opinion, it was not a surprise. Trinidad allowed Hopkins to do what no other opponent has been able to do, and that's get under his skin. Hopkins simply outwitted Trinidad. Careful and honest observation will show that this fight was over before the opening bell. From the countless verbal assaults, to the flag-throwing incident, to the retaping of Trinidad's hands, Tito found himself engaged in a war of minds that would leave him on his backside in the 12th round and solidify Hopkins' much deserved place among boxing's pound-for-pound best.

JOHN IVERSON
New York, NY

I am a big Bernard Hopkins fan. He is a true warrior of the Philadelphia tradition, and I was sure he would beat Felix Trinidad. That being said, I feel it is ludicrous for ESPN2 *Friday Night Fights'* Max Kellerman to rank Hopkins as the number-one pound-for-pound fighter in the world. Bernard doesn't qualify ahead of Shane Mosley, Roy Jones, Floyd Mayweather, and Ricardo Lopez. Kellerman is just jumping on the Bernard Hopkins bandwagon after not even picking him to beat Trinidad in the first place.

ERIC FLANAGAN
Tipton, MO

I just finished watching the Bernard Hopkins-Felix Trinidad fight for the fourth time and it gets better every time. Hopkins has been my favorite fighter for several years running and I've long been a skeptic of Trinidad, so I derived a good deal of pleasure from the fight. Not only did Bernard outbox "Tito," but he was able to finish the job by knocking him out with a gorgeous right hand in the 12th round.

PHOTO BY BRIAN CANNON/DKP

Bernard Hopkins beat Felix Trinidad before they even entered the ring for the undisputed middleweight championship, contends reader John Iverson. Hopkins rattled Trinidad with verbal taunts and by throwing the Puerto Rican flag during press conferences.

Oscar De La Hoya proved, if only for a few rounds, that Trinidad can be outboxed and frustrated rather easily. While he is an excellent fighter, I can't help but compare Trinidad's presence in the ring to what Mike Tyson's used to be. His vaunted power, like Tyson's, would have his opponents afraid to let their hands go for fear of being stretched by one punch. Hopkins, while keeping Trinidad at bay with a crisp left jab, was not deterred from throwing his right hand. The jab also would not let Tito get set to throw his left hook very often, and when he did, Bernard was in good defensive position. Simply put, it was a beautiful boxing clinic put on by a far better, well-rounded fighter.

"The Executioner" should now get the respect and money that he is long overdue for. His performance was a privilege to watch. Thanks, Bernard.

JOHN M. DOBROLSKY JR.
Philadelphia, PA

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

Hopkins fought a flawless fight against Trinidad, in the opinion of reader John M. Dobrolsky. Now, Dobrolsky wrote, Hopkins should get the money and respect that has long been overdue.

"POPO" TOO HIGH

Having read the rankings of the 100 best fighters in the world in the November 2001 issue of THE RING, I was very surprised to see Acelino Freitas ranked as high as 26th on the list compiled by your staff. What has he done to deserve such a high ranking? I always considered this magazine to be one of the most conservative around, meaning that you always ranked proven fighters over unproven fighters. To me, that's exactly what Freitas is at this stage of his career—a prospect!

PHILIPP KRUCK
Marl, Germany

A REASON FOR ROY'S RELUCTANCE

Each time I pick up a boxing magazine, the first thing I do is check to see if you have an article about Roy Jones. Ever since I first saw Roy fight in the 1988 Olympics, his talent and flair have had me fixated. His climb up the boxing ladder was rocky, but inevitable. When he did reach the top of his profession, we applauded his fistic virtuosity.

Since there is obviously no one in his weight range to truly challenge him, we call for him to obliterate those that are put in front of him, to reduce them to quivering heaps of bleeding, bruised flesh. Like it or not, Roy is a human first and a fighter second, aware of the havoc that he is capable of wreaking.

Exactly what is Roy reluctant to do, beat another human to death to impress the Nigel Collinses and Johnnie Whiteheads of the world? I'm certain that if he fought with a Mike Tyson-like attitude each time in the ring, there would be a string of casualties left in his wake, and families of these fighters left to deal with the hurt long after that month's issue of THE RING is off the newsstand. Fortunately for boxing, the human side of Roy won't allow him to do this. He's not willing to take a life just to sit atop your pound-for-pound ratings. So for the next year or two that he's around, let's appreciate him for what he is, easily the best fighter of this generation, and one of the best of all time!

CHARLES HENRY
Philadelphia, PA

WARD-BURTON DESERVED BETTER

The very fact that the judges scoring the Micky Ward-Emanuel Burton battle could hand out such a horrible set of scores emphasizes a tragic state of affairs in the world of boxing. In the ring were two men nearly killing each other, only to be acknowledged with scoring that shortchanged both fighters.

This fight was clearly a one-point fight. The call for a draw could even be argued. But to score this 96-91 for Ward, as Jim Finnegan did, was simply a travesty. The 98-90 score handed out by Mike Nolan can honestly be categorized as one of the worst screwjobs of all-time. Both fighters were insulted by these results as they made the fight appear to be something it wasn't. These judges made this look like a one-sided contest dominated by Ward. It clearly was more than that; this fight was one for the ages that hopefully will be remembered for what it was rather than what two overpaid judges saw it as.

ANDREW SCHAFER
Burnaby, British Columbia ■

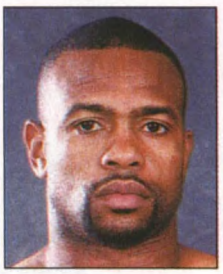
PHOTO BY ANGIE CARLINO

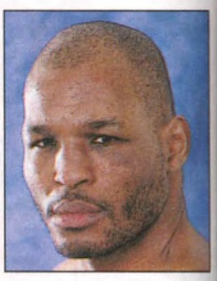
Micky Ward and Emanuel Burton engaged in what many think is the Fight of the Year for 2001. Reader Andrew Schafer, however, saw the one-sidedness in two of the three scorecards that favored Ward as a blemish on what was otherwise a great fight.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Eric Raskin

JONES AND HOPKINS TOGETHER, YET MILES APART





Jones and Hopkins are sharing an HBO bill from two locales

How appropriate that on Groundhog's Day, February 2, **Roy Jones** is making like **Bill Murray** and doing the same mundane thing he's done over and over again. The unified light heavyweight champ will once more be bypassing his handful of intriguing potential opponents to face a gazillion-to-one mandatory longshot—in this instance, IBF number-one **Glenn Kelly** of Australia.

But HBO is hoping to add a twist this time around, something to make this a little bit different than every other Jones dud we've put up with since he unified the crown in '99. While Jones will be fighting in Miami, the co-feature will emanate from another site, probably Philadelphia, where undisputed middleweight champ **Bernard Hopkins** will go for his division-record-setting 15th title defense against *his* IBF mandatory, **Carl Daniels**. Is this any less of a mismatch than Jones-Kelly? Probably not. But Hopkins is entitled to a gimme fight after facing **Felix Trinidad**, **Keith Holmes**, and **Antwun Echols** in his last three, not to mention the fact that he'll make an effort to entertain while satisfying his mandatory obligations.

Yet while Hopkins is the hotter fighter, all indications point toward Jones-Kelly being the main event of the broadcast. But that doesn't matter to "The Executioner."

"It doesn't bother me if they show Roy's fight after mine," Hopkins said. "As long as I'm the main event on *my* show."

HBO's plan was to use the doubleheader to build toward a matchup of the undisputed champs later in the year, but Hopkins, who would prefer a fight with **Oscar De La Hoya** over a fight with Jones, declined to commit just yet. However, with De La Hoya's schedule pushed back by his recent wrist injury, and with his desire to fight Hopkins highly questionable anyway, a Jones-Hopkins fight can indeed happen—but only if Hopkins is granted purse parity.

MO' SHO

According to Showtime Vice President of Communications **Marina Cappora**, *ShoBox: The New Generation* is meeting expectations in the ratings, so chances are good that the show will be around a little while. Showtime's original commitment was for 26 shows, which would take them through late-summer 2002, but Cappora says we can probably expect *ShoBox* to be around beyond that.

"It's doing really well for us," Cappora said. "So right now, there's no reason to think we won't renew our commitment when the 26 shows are up."

LISTEN UP

Forrest: Back on Mosley's dance card

Last issue, it was reported that welterweight champ **Shane Mosley** had failed to work out a deal with **Vernon Forrest** and would instead be moving up to face **Winky Wright**. Now, thanks to Wright and Forrest both changing their minds, Sugar Shane has changed his. Mosley will be fighting Forrest to unify two-thirds of the welterweight title on January 26 on HBO ... Unbeaten super middleweight **Joe Calzaghe** is planning to finally invade America in February, although the specific site and opponent were still up in the air as of press time. One strong possibility to face the Welshman is former IBF titlist **Charles "The Hatchet" Brewer** ... The WBA minimumweight title made vacant by the sudden retirement of **Yutaka Niida** will be up for grabs in Yokohama, Japan, on January 29. A pair of former titlists, **Keitaro Hoshino** and **Joma Gamboa**, will vie for the belt, while another former champ, **Noel Arambulet**, is guaranteed the first shot at the winner ... Two of the biggest punchers in the light heavyweight division are scheduled to go at it on ESPN2 *Friday Night Fights* on January 25, when **Julian Letterlough** takes on **David Telesco** in a 10-round bout. It may not be the most meaningful bout that can be made at 175 pounds, but it has the potential to be the most fun. ■

TITLE™ BOXING

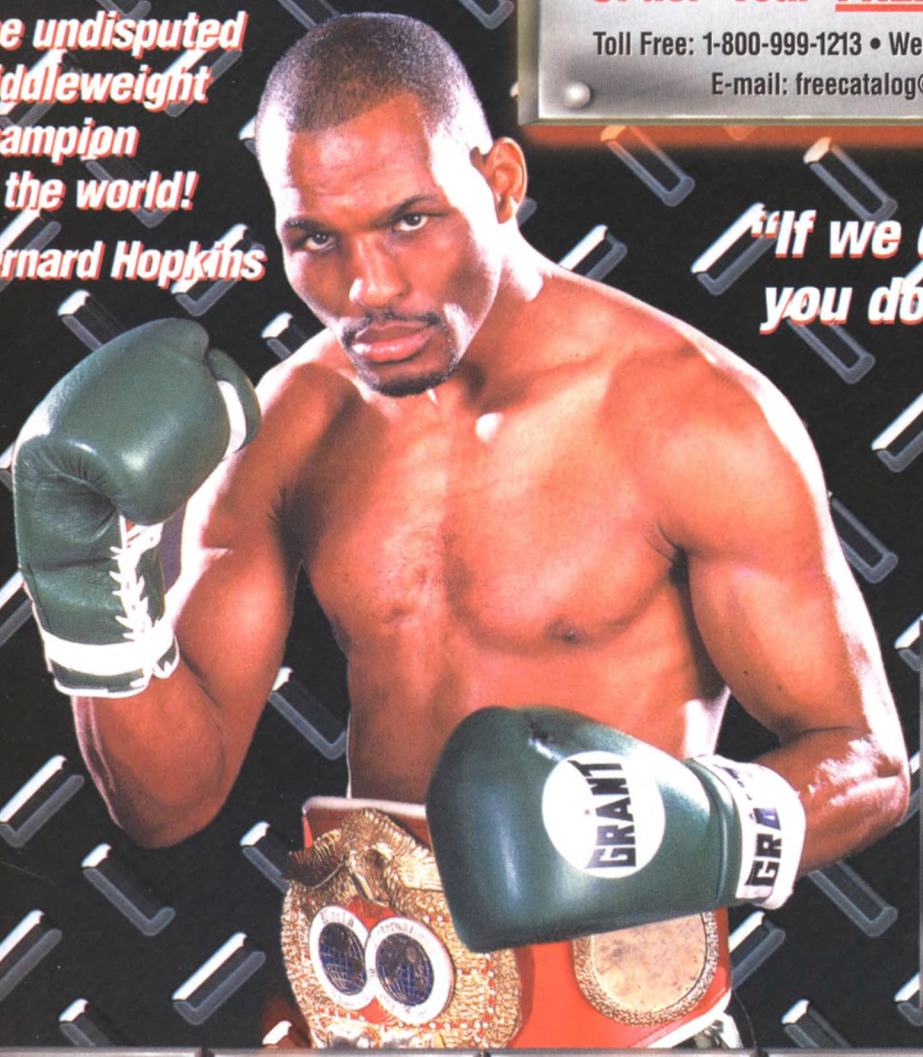
2002 EQUIPMENT CATALOG

Order Your FREE Catalog Today

Toll Free: 1-800-999-1213 • Web site: www.titleboxing.com
E-mail: freecatalog@titleboxing.com

The undisputed middleweight champion of the world!
Bernard Hopkins

"If we don't have it, you don't need it!"



GRANT
WWW.GRANTBOXING.COM
EXPANDED FOR 2002
SEE PAGES 3–15
WWW.GRANTBOXING.COM

EVERLAST
ALL NEW PROLINE
SEE PAGES 74–83
WWW.EVERLASTBOXING.COM

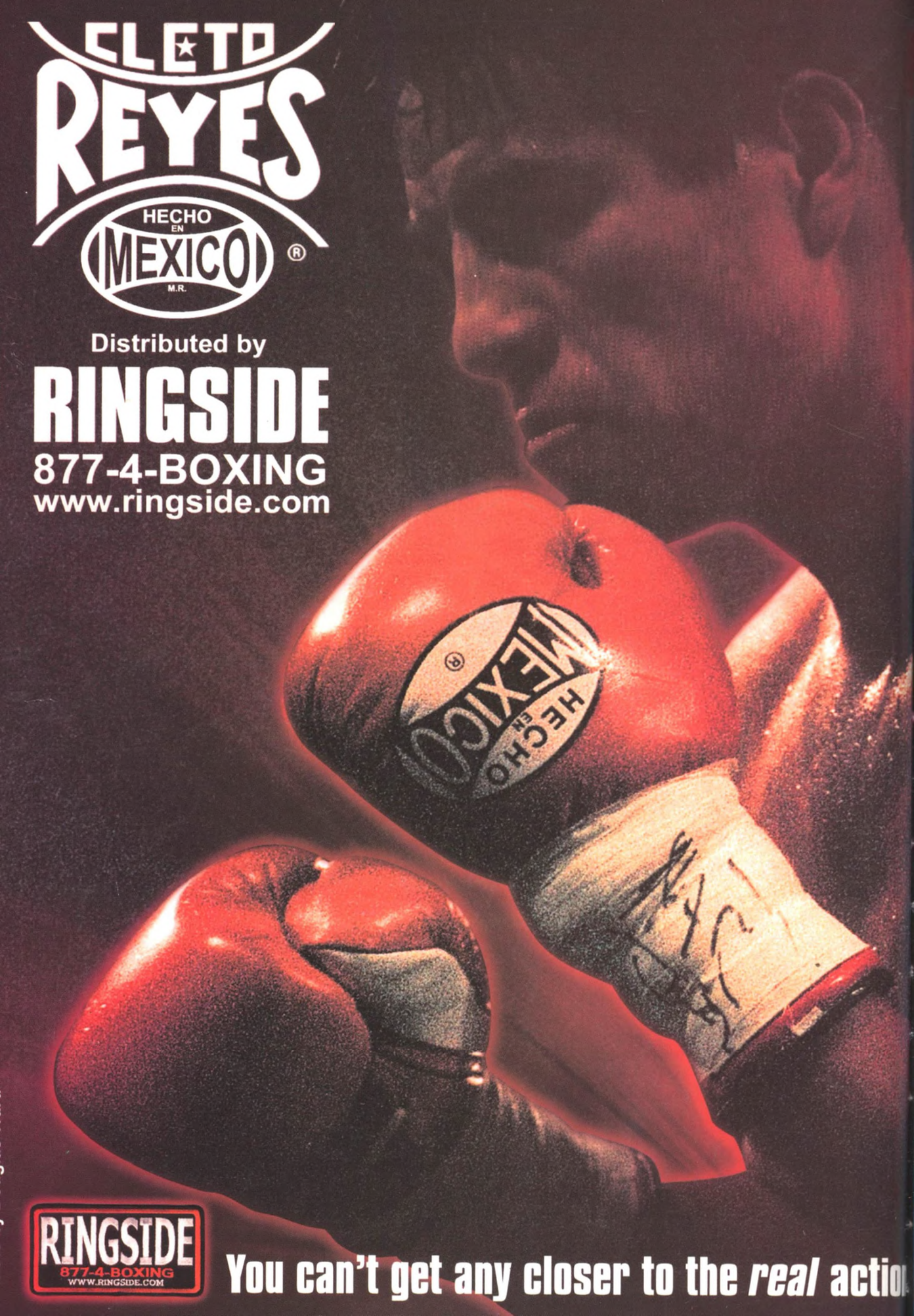
TITLE Platinum
ULTIMATE EQUIPMENT
SEE PAGES 38–41
WWW.TITLEBOXING.COM

TUF-WEAR®
WWW.TUFWEAR.COM
FULLY EXPANDED & STOCKED
SEE PAGES 158–162
WWW.TUFWEAR.COM

CLETO REYES
PROFESSIONAL
HECHO EN MEXICO
HECHO EN MEXICO
SEE PAGES 68–71
WWW.REYESDIRECT.COM

adidas
ALL NEW MODELS
SEE PAGES 152–153
WWW.TITLEBOXING.COM

ORDER TOLL FREE • 1-800-999-1213 • www.titleboxing.com


CLETO
REYES
HECHO EN MEXICO
M.R.
Distributed by
RINGSIDE
877-4-BOXING
www.ringside.com
RINGSIDE
877-4-BOXING
WWW.RINGSIDE.COM
You can't get any closer to the *real* actio